Uttarpara Jaykrishna Public Library

Acc No. 242/4 Date 23-6 Better Off in a Jar of Formaldehyde

The authors of Boy or Girl?' (October 28) have vociferously criticised sex determination tests, but have ignored the emotional aspect of the reality.

Can they deny that a vast proportion of Indian females are subjected to a degree of physical and mental torture by their parents and in-laws that would make the Nazis look saintly by comparison? It is this mentality that perpetuates the dowry system. In simple terms, a boy makes noney and a girl takes noney.

Until the vitiated atmosshere of our so-called civilsed society is cleansed, no November 1987 edition, by one Mr Jolly Thodathuserry.

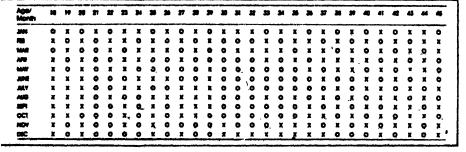
In this chart, the pre-gnancy age 18-45 is shown from left to right. The actual month of pregnancy is shown from top to bottom. The 'X' mark indicates a boy and 'O' a girl. If the couple use this chart for the purpose of conception, they can have a child according to their choice. For example, if a 22-yearscompleted woman wants a baby boy, she should conceive in February, March, May or August. Similarly, a woman who has completed 27 years should conceive in January, March, May, June

and only question after a long period of unconscious-ness following a Caesarean section was: Boy or girl? When I replied, Boy, she lay back happily. I don't know what her reaction would have been if I had said, 'Girl'.

Barun Chakraborty, Birbhum (W.B.)

It is a shocking truth that. even mothers in our country silently pray that their child will be a male. B.N. Bose, Calcutta

■ It is amazing that in a country where males and females claim equal legalrights and where females have proved to be a match for males in all respects, ababy girl cannot expect



amount of legislation will stop the dehumanisation of Indian society. The female foetus is better off in a iar of formaldehyde than amongst parents who do not have the ability or desire to give it the love and support it needs.

Gaurab Banerice. Calcutta

Mrs and Mr Arvind Kohli claim that they have a chart by which they can forecast the sex of the baby. I possess the same chart.

This chart is actually a Chinese chart that was found buried in a royal tomb near Beijing about. 700 years ago.

Syed Anser of Alam, Manapore (W.B.)

A similar chart has already been published in a Malayalam magazine called, Kanyaka, in their or November to have a baby girl. The month mentioned in the chart is the commencement of the growth of the foetus immediately after conception.

According to the reporter of Kanyaka, this chart was discovered 700 years ago in a Beijing royal tomb and the same is preserved in the Institute of Science, Beijing. The editor of the magazine also mentioned that the report was scientifically proved, that the chart was secured from tourists and that the chart could be tested at the reader's own risk.

K. Pankajan, Calcutta

■ I have a similar chart which was published in a Kuwait daily years ago.

G. Hannan. Shillong

My elder sister's first

equal birth right! Jayanta Nandi Roy, Guwahati

Thank you for focusing on the brutal misuse of the two wonderful gifts of medical science: amniocentesis and ultrasonography. Even brutes would shudder at the mass murder.

Sirajus Salekin, Calcutta

The story was a rich tribute to the millions of girls just before the year of the girl child (1991). Manchar Mandal,

Nabadwip (W.B.)

 Stringent laws should be enacted against the destroying of female focuses. If we don't arrest the trend, we will be making a mockery of our cherished heritage and of humanity. Kamal Krishna,

Calcutta 🗸

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

6 JANUARY, 1991

So, you want to be Peter Pan? There is plenty that you can pick off the shelf at the friendly neighbourhood chemist's. Run along, then...



Samantha Fox, that pop singer who packs so much into the little frame, had the crowds panting in Bombay. New Delhi and Madras. A photofeature on the Delhi show.

Chittaranian Samanta is the first man to do voga at an altitude of 5,554 metres. And make a bid for the Guinness.

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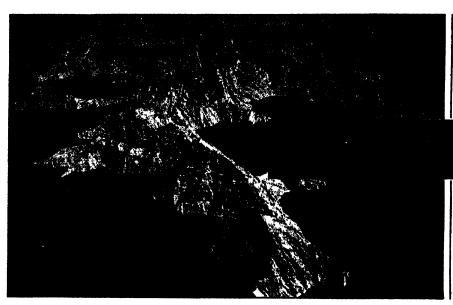
Junior Whirl

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Cover Jeetendra with Jaya Prada in Majboor



Tt makes a sh. gasoline hose, TP bend, like a pinched gasoline hose, TP bend, like a pinched liranian desert and h. jagged limestone cliffs of Arabia's Musanda Peninsula. Nothing enters or leaves the Persian Gulf without passing through the 104-limite Strait of Hormuz, a slender chute that connects the Gulf's underground oceans of

oil to a petroleum-thirsty world.

Regarded for centuries as one of the most strategically important waterways, the strait has been called the Gibraltar of the East. It has taken on new significance because of the conflict sparked in August by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. "In fact, it should be considered as the

world's single most important strait econo-



micelly, because it is marked by a vital global interest in the passage of goods, services, resources and technology, with oil shipments the heart of its economic importance," says Rouhollah K. Ramasani, who teaches government and foreign affairs at the University of Virginia.

Two powers dominate the strait. Along the sandy, low-lying northern shore lies Iran, which maintains major military bases in the area. To the south, Oman owns the remote tip of the Musandam Peninsula, with its rocky, convoluted coastline.

Outsiders rarely visit the peninsula itself. "It's pretty isolated and desolate," says National Geographic writer Thomas J. Abercrombie, a Middle East veteran. "The land just shoots right up out of the water, sort of like broken glass. It would ruin a boat pretty quickly if you put one up against the rock, except for a few narrow beaches."

Michael Sterner, US ambassador to the United Arab Emirates during the Carter administration, remembers the oppressive heat that lay over the tip of land.

"I was there in late spring, and it was

With the Gulf conflict, the Strait of Hormuz has become the

most-watched waterway

in the world, writes

Donald Smith

Photographs: Steve Raymer

blazingly hot and very humid," he says. "It's very craggy, totally treeless. There are little enclaves of fisher-folks along the coast, quite primitive and poor. It's not a beautiful place, but it is very imposing."

"As a vacation spot it would rank just above purgatory," says another traveller.

Most of the peninsula's sparse population belong to the Shihuh and Habus tribes, two of the hundreds of tribal and subtribal groups scattered across Oman. Villagers, who fish and farm on a subsistence level and keep herds of goats, speak a language that includes both Arabic and Persian words.

Traditionally, Western military and political analysts have concentrated on the goal of keeping the strait open for oil shipments. But in the current Gulf conflict, the United States and its allies have closed the strait to vessels attempting to break UN economic sanctions against Iraq.

Some analysts say Iraq itself might use its air power to try to close down the strait in the event of a war. During the long war

that followed Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran, oil tankers became strategic targets.

"During the tanker war Iranians were trying to ship out oil," recalls Ramasani. "Iraqis went after those targets quite successfully by air."

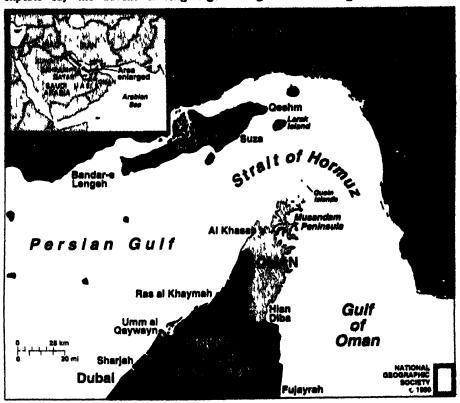
Others, such as Brookings Institution guest scholar Judith Kipper, believe the strait is too far away for Iraq to sustain an effective blockade under the current circumstances, even by air. "It would be difficult," she says. Either way, the pasage is likely once again to become a scene of violence.

The shallowness of the Persian Gulf itself discourages the use of large warships, especially submarines. Military experts say the advent of long-range

Traversing the strait can be like threading a needle in a stiff breeze. Although the waterway is usually cake, strong tidal currents and frequent strong, shifting winds can make navigation through the numerous islands tricky. Visibility is sometimes poor because of salt, haze, early-morning fog or one of the frequent sand-storms that can obliterate objects a half-mile away or even closer.

Vessels entering from the Arabian Sea—an arm of the Indian Ocean—pass through the Gulf of Oman, then make a sharp turn north to enter the strait.

The strait narrows from a maximum of 52 miles to just over 20 miles between Larak Island and the Quoin islands. The navigable channel ranges from 240 feet to



Polaris missules capable of hitting distant targets has lessened the need for the passage of US nuclear-powered submarines through the strait.

On October 2, when the USS Independence entered the Gulf along with several ships of her battle group, the 79,000-ton vessel became the first aircraft carrier to traverse the strait since 1974. A Navy spokesman said the visit was intended partly as a "show of force" against Iraq.

The shipping channel passes through waters within Oman's 12-mile territorial boundary. For years the sultanate has enthusiastically acted as traffic cop of the strait, governing the passage of a steady international stream of tankers.

480 feet deep. This undersea gorge along which ships must pass is considerably narrower than the rest of the waterway and hugs the Arabian shore to the south.

Three hundred years ago the coast was haunted by Omani pirates who preyed on British and Dutch shipping. A peace treaty eventually ended the practice.

More recently, oil-tanker traffic through the strait was cut by one-third during the war between Iran and Iraq, which ended in

With escalating tensions in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormus once again has become the most-watched waterway in the world.

(National Geographic News Service)

PEPPILLS

nyday you have time to spare try walking through a downtown park. Ignore the commuters at various bus stands. Pass by the shady ladies. Pay no attention to the intense teen-patti players and avoid the dopers. Run the gauntlet of pelmists and astrologers. Brush off the beggars and the sleigh-of-hand specialists. You will be left with furtive groups standing around shady individuals lecturing on matters of a sexual nature.

Suppress your annoyance or laughter at the rubbish being spouted. Just observe the quack's audience. It will be all male, probably because the Bharatiya nari would find it too embarrassing to be seen taking a

public interest.



They will be carefully avoiding eye contact and lapping up disinformation. When the lecture ends the hard sell starts. "Use this oil or that herb or yonder potion and your wife will never look at another man." That is the refrain. At this stage most of the audience drifts away having had its

The craze to stay young now has something to feed itself on: a whole line of medicines, particularly ginseng, which have hit the market in the recent past. But how effective or safe are they? Devangshu

Dutta and Monimoy

Dasgupta take a close look at the exploding multi-crore business

Charts by Nilratan Maity

free entertainment, but a significant minority shuffle their feet and fork out substantial sums.

This is what Dr Prakash Kothari calls, "The exploitation of the deperate by the ignorant." All the stuff being flogged is useless and some of it is dangerous.

Since time immemorial people have experimented with exotic substances in the hope of sexual stimulation. From rhino horn to pearls in vinegar—you name it and somebody's tried it. Charaka in his Vajikarana (aphrodisiacs) section of the Susruta writes of the efficacy of "rooster's flesh fried in crocodile semen". One wonders how the latter was persuaded to part with his family jewels.

Now 'potent energising' drugs have become big corporate business. A new one has entered the Indian market or rather an add this has been repackaged by several markings and is now available at the counter of your friendly neighbourhood medical store.

This is ginseng alias Panax Arialaceae the brown-white powdered root of perennial plant grown under shade. Haile by the inscrutable Japanese as "the won der of the universe", ginseng product have been popular in the far East for mille nae. It has certainly proved wonderful fo the corporate balance sheet with annua sales touching Rs 50 crores.

In the last three years the market fo ginseng products has grown phenomenal ly. Revital, Jensheng and Ginsec are among the market leaders so far as phar macological products are concerned Among herbal/ayurvedic products, Thirty Plus and Chawanprash lead the way with the former selling more than one crore packets monthly.

Ginseng's purported efficiency in treat ing a diverse range of chronic complaint is unbelievable. It is not just an aphrodisia but it is advertised as a safe natural stimu lant with no known side effects. The key word is safe.

Ginseng is supposed to prolong the lifespan, reduce blood sugar and speed up insulin action in diabetics. Dr Shaukat Sadi kot of Jaslok Hospital, Bombay says there is no truth in the last claim. It is also believed to improve memory, learning ability and muscular coordination. It is even supposed to help neurotic and neurasthenics and speed up drug with drawal. All this in addition to its legendar approdistac effect. The literature distributed by various manufacturers states tha it does all this without any side effects.

Ginseng contains dozens of organiacids and sugars. But the pharmacologica actions of the drug are thought to be did to the action of several substances known as ginsenosides or saponins. These are steroidal structures similar to steroid hor mones and there lies the rub.

Post-Ben Johnson and Seoul '88 does one need to reiterate the dangers of steroid use and abuse? However, medical opinion is sharply divided on how closely the actions of ginsenosides mimic that of steroids.

No one deries their similarity. But does ginseng create the same side effects. Dipak Chatterjee of Biological Estate title manufacturers of Jenaheng), points out "A ginseng based drink was even efficielly

approved for the Seoul Olympics There is a difference between a steroid and something like a steroid. Ginseng may have some steroidal effects, but without the (undesirable) side effects of a steroid."

Studies indicate that long-term use of ginseng may lead to Ginseng Abuse Syndrome (GAS) with symptoms that resemble steroid poisoning A two-year study by the Journal of the American Medical Association involving 133 subjects came to this conclusion

The subjects showed up with morning diarrhoea, insomnia, hypertension and nervousness. They amazingly reported a simultaneous feeling of well being and efficiency, at least some of them did. Interestingly, only nine out of 133 felt their sexual performance had been enhanced.

This study was written off by Manila Kothari of Duphar Interfran, manufacturers of Ginsec, as an "uncontrolled trial" Kothari pointed out that the subjects had at various times ingested ginseng in unconventional forms like tea and reefers. She stated that the dosages had not necessarily been within the recommended limits being even 10 times the normal amount on occasions.

G K Majumdar of Wockhardt the

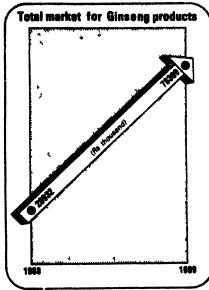
manufacturers of Winofit, says the same thing "The side effects of ginseng depend on the pattern, extent and amount of the drug taken in one go The concentration of ginseng in Winofit is such that it will not lead to any side effects"

The *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin* reports other GAS symptoms may be oestrogenic effects and swollen breasts and vaginal bleeding in the female

In August 1988 the ministry of health in Pakistan informed the World Health Organisation (WHO) that, among 602 other drugs, they were withdrawing ginseng preparations from the market. The reason cited was that "the listed products were irrational, either unsafe, of doubtful therapeutic value or subject to misuse".

In July 1989 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the US banned the sale of the notorious Spanish Fly and ginseng in combination with other substances. The FDA concluded that the purported aphrodisiacs were neither safe nor enhanced desire or performance. Safety was their prime concern, a spokesman was quoted as saying

However, pure ginseng is still available as a "health food" in the US, according to Dipak Chatterjee Earlier, ginseng has



Source ORG (1989)

been used in cookies, wine biscuits, soap shampoos and body oils

Isn't it a strange coincidence that promotional literature distributed in India by the various ginseng product manufacturers fails to mention the ban? Or that Pakistan's closing the door in 1988 led to a flood of ginseng products hitting the Indian market and a 275 per cent increase in volume of sales the next year? Or that despite these explicit reservations ginseng products are advertised as being safe and having no side effects?

Dr Prakash Kothan, head of the sexual medicine department, KEM Hospital, Bombay comes up with another interesting point. He states that a herbal medicine must be used within six months of the date of plucking. Also that ayurvedic preparations are always prescribed after knowing the patient's prakruti and vikruti (physiology and pathology).

Are the manufacturing dates on the various products being marketed that of the date of plucking? Ideally they should be Is the expiry date within six months of the plucking date? Should ginseng be sold over the counter in contradiction of Charaka's principle that an unprescribed drug may be "as a vaira, a sword edge or poison"?

As for the aphrodisiac properties of ginseng, Kothan says this is based on the doctrine of signatures or similatude. That is, like cures like

For instance, Aswagandha, whose roots smell like a stallion's urine, is believed to endow the user with the strength and virility of a horse. Mandrake, which resembles a human torso, is also believed to be an aphrodisiac for that reason. On the other hand, Sarpagandha, looks like a coiled snake and hence is considered a specific against snakebite. Similarly, the fact that



'THE ELIXIR OF LIFE'

The remarkable properties of ginseng were supposedly discovered by Lao Tse (circa 600 BC) the semilegendary founder of the Taoist Way. Like rockets, paper, silk and tea it eventually found its way out of China and was adopted by several Far Eastern countries.

Tao Hung Ching (452-536 AD) states, "Ginseng tastes sweet and cool. It is a tonic to the spirits, allays fear, expels evil effluvia, brightens the eye and improves the mind. If taken for a while it will prolong lifespan and

remove thirst."

All over China, Japan and Korea ginseng preparations in combination with other drugs have been used for centuries. The Koreans call it the elixir of life. It used to be fearfully expensive, being worth its weight in silver at one time. Even now 30-40 gms of pure wild ginseng powder costs around \$4000.

Garricques, a biochemist studied ginseng scientifically for the first time in 1854. He isolated several substances called saponins or ginsenosides from wild Canadian ginseng. In 1890 the Russian Davidow carried out similar experiments with Korean ginseng.

The first international symposium on ginseng was held in Seoul in 1974 with nine nations participating. There have been four more since and the WHO sponsored gerontology conference in Lugano, 1975, which featured studies on ginseng. Ginseng has also been investigated by various ministries of health and the Food and Drug Administration, US.

Ginseng is distributed naturally between 30 and 48 degrees of Latitude. That is, it grows in the wild in the cool temperate zone, very often in the rain shadow areas of high mountains.

Asiatic ginseng is found in Korea, Manchuria, Siberia and Japan. North America has also got a native ginseng species. The drug is obtained from the perennial plant Panax Aralacaae. The name is derived from the Chinese 'Jen Sheng' signifying the herb whose roots resemble the human body.

It is traditionally classified according to its place of origin. Wild ginseng is now very rare and said to be discovered only by divine revelation. Cultivated ginseng is referred to as Korean, Japanese or Canadian ginseng, according to its place of origin.

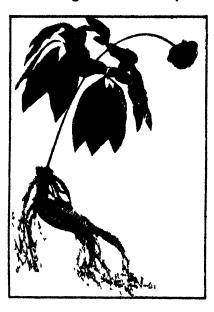
It is also classified according to the process of treatment. Fresh roots are called green ginseng. Dried green ginseng is known as white ginseng while

steamed green ginseng is called red ginseng.

Ginseng is wildly expensive because it is a difficult plant to cultivate. There must be good drainage and at least 130 cms (50 ins.) rainfall as well as light snowfall. Also the same field cannot be used to grow two successive crops without a 15-year gap.

The Panax plant blooms only three years after it is sown. In the northern hemisphere the plant bears seeds by mid-July. The mother plants provide seeds only once in four years.

The seeds are mixed with fresh sand and left to germinate for nearly four



months. In early November they are sown on previously prepared sand beds. Even there care must be taken to ensure even growth.

The nursery beds are prepared by tilling about 15 times and sowing of wild grasses. In late March or early April of year two the nurseries are seeded. In late September or early October when the leaves and stem begin to wilt, the stalk is covered with soil in order to protect it.

The seedlings are transplanted in early April of year three. This must be done within a week otherwise the attrition rate is high. Sunshades are then set up and once again protective measures are taken in autumn.

The roots are harvested from four, five and six-year-old plants depending on the type of ginseng required. Harvesting for white ginseng is carried out in August and is red ginseng is obtained in late September or early October.

the ginseng root looks vaguely like a ling am has led people to believe it has phallic properties, says Kothari.

However, scientific investigation of various plants has not established the validity of the doctrine of signatures, he point out. Yet, there remains the possibility of a placebo effect—that belief in the efficacy of a medicine may be enough to do the trick—provided the placebo is inert and harmless.

According to Kothari more double blink studies (where neither the doctor nor the patient knows who is being administered the drug) are necessary to establish the efficiency of the drug ginseng as well as several other herbs such as Aswagandha.

"People harbour the misconception that homeopathy and ayurvedic medicines are quite harmless even when they don't work," claims Kothari. This is simply not true. As Kent, the noted homeopath, states, homeopathy can kill. So can ayurveda if applied irrationally "There is nothing like one universal drug for all patients and anything that can cure sick folks can also kill sick folks," he adds.

According to Kothari, "The picture of a

According to Kothari, "The picture of a ginseng root may well be more stimulating or effective than the root itself." It is the considered opinion of India's foremost sexologist that ginseng may be neither safe nor effective particularly if it is just sold over the counter, without prescription.

He would not comment on the GAS and cartico steroid poisoning effects simply stating, "I am not aware of this steroidal property."

Dr P.K. Sarkar of R.G. Kar Medical College, is the editor of a quarterly journal published by the Drug Action Forum, West Bengal. He, too, has a great deal to say on the subject of ginseng and the way it has been pushed by the drug manufacturing companies.

Sarkar laments the lack of any authoritative, unbiased scientific information available about new drugs being released in the Indian market. Theoretically, the government drug control authorities are responsible for disseminating information about new drugs as laid down in the Drug Control Policy, 1986. In practice, they don't provide any information. There is also a grey area about herbal ayurvedic, that is, "unscientific" drugs. Who should be responsible for scientific information on unscientific drugs?

Also, there is no official regulation on the type of promotional material supplied. A drug manufacturer can, and according to Sarkar, often does, supply only one side of the story, glossing over, or not mentioning his product's drawbacks. Particularly blatant are the cases where multinationals provide one set of promotional material with detailed scientific information for the First World, and another set for India and

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other Third World nations (containing half truths and distortions). Ginseng is no exception. The manufacturers are generally silent about possible adverse effects. One manufacturer states, "Side effects following prolonged ginseng are almost negligible" and another that "no side effects have been observed in even a single case".

Doctors don't in general know much about herbai/ayurvedic drugs because these are not included in medical curricula and don't find a place in standard textbooks. A busy GP may well rely on the one-sided information supplied by drug manufacturers.

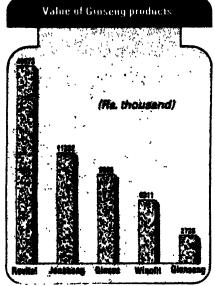
Many GPs prescribe tonics simply as placebos. But are the expensive ginseng tonics in the market harmless? As Sarkar says, current scientific evidence does not prove they are.

The drug companies have also marshalled a substantial amount of evidence to counter these charges. As they say, more than 2,000 research papers have been published on ginseng proving "its manifold therapeutic benefits and freedom from major adverse effects".

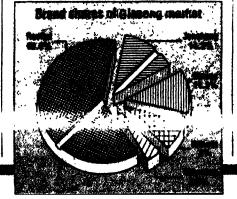
Sarkar counters the argument that several pharmacopoeae list ginseng drugs by pointing out that textbooks on pharmacology also list drugs which are dangerous and proscribed such as cocaine and heroin.

Saponins are not steroids, the drug companies state. Moreover, the ginsenosides have hardly any toxicity, according to them. However, Sarkar states that saponins are steroidal structures bound to sugars and quotes several textbook references in support of his claim.

The drug companies also point out that they have never claimed that ghirting her been cleared or the Pura dia may have also not bothered to mention that it has not been cleared in the US and that it is



(Note: The ORG survey covered only ginseng-based drugs manufactured by pharmaceutical companies. Companies which produce only ayurvedic drugs, such as Ajanta Pharma, manufacturers of Thirty Plus, were not included.)



banned in Pakistan as well.

In the final analysis drug companies state that ginseng has been used as "a medicine and food product in several countries for more than 5,000 years without giving rise to adverse effects and with considerable clinical benefits." This, according to them, is the ultimate vindication of ginseng.

The last, of course, is a rather difficult statement to either prove or disprove without recourse to a time machine. There is simply no hard data on which one can base or investigate this claim. Similarly the fact that there have been international symposia and WHO sponsored conferences where ginseng featured on the agenda does not necessarily prove that it is safe or scientific.

ust why has ginseng among other health tonics and "energisers and rechargers' caught on to the Indian market in such a big way? Is the well-to-do Indian finally becoming health conscious? Has the 'phoren' craze for fitness and health au naturelle caught on in such a big way here?

Looking at the burgeoning health clubs and clinics one certainly thinks so. It has become fashionable to jog and est wholesome food and workout in health clubs and gyms. Fat is out, fit is in.

It could also be age-old mate anxieties about impotence finally surfacing. As the age of emancipation dawns for the urban working Indian woman, her spouse is finally facing competition. She now has far more access to males than ever before. she has become more assertive and less likely to endure frustration.

Kinsey after all established that women peak sexually after 30 whereas men start going downhill at 18! For women who are over 30, the best has truly begun anyway. Their consorts may well feel compelled to take tonics to recharge their batteries so that they can cope.

Another factor could be that with life expectancies increasing worldwide, gerontology is becoming an increasingly important field of study. Intense research on all types of life prolonging drugs is going on.

The massive media and publicity campaigns accompanying the release of various ginseng products may have influenced even the skeptical and incommitted. It is supposedly effective in so many different cases that a lot of people would be tempted to try it once anyhow.

The perceptive reader will have noted that a lot of unanswered questions are strewn at random through this article. Deliberately so, with medical opinion divided about the efficacy and possible adverse

ifects a ginselig. Tobuly move ill the answers for sure year what we an the pertinent questions have not even been asked vet.

HARTING 199

ineteen ninety one launches us into the last decade of the 20th Century in a blaze of glory and glamour. It will be the year of the woman, as Jupiter, the paresetter, will be in the slot of conception and babies, fashions and style, gold and grandiose, cinema and stage, entertainment and amusements, hobbies and follies(!), study and research, sports and games (very specially the love game).

1991 has two 1s and two 9s. Therefore the complete range and gamut from 1 to 9 is covered. In other words, the numerology wheel has turned the full circle. Also, from February 7, Thursday, 1991, Saturn steps into Aquarius by Western astrology, thus initiating the Aquarian age. Adding 1991 we do get 1+9+9+1=20, the indicator of the 20th century!! That's a happy, purposeful, coincidence and it speaks well for our future.

We open up full throttle with the yearly forecast...

ARIES: Men will be knights in shining armour. Women will not be queens but empresses. Yes, there will be chemistry and gallantry in plenty for you pioneering, impulsive Ariens. Birth of children, ventures and adventures, high voltage creativity and absolute sportsmanship, swings of moods, tremendous inner drive and excellent performance at all levels, are the salient features of 1991.

Though red is usually associated with you folks, Ganesha, my Master, suggests a touch of gold and aquamarine this year, as Jupiter (gold) and Saturn (aquamarine), are both superbly placed in your solarscope. Please, however, try your best to use black sparingly in 1991.

January opens in a flurry of activity, as Mars, the energiser, triggers your work frontier, and therefore, you may expect a few changes. In the last 21/2 years or so, a power struggle and some animosity were fated. January will be the continuation and the carry-over of it. You will have to give your best shot, as work pressures will be enormous. Health of parents and in-laws, could cause problems. The opening month will also be important for money, promotion, a new job or a different line of work, renovation and decoration, house moving and perhaps, travel. January, in short, virtually storms you into action and enterprise.

Saturn ingresses your 11th angle of friendships, alliances, relationships, chil-

dren, group activity, socialising on February 7, consequently, pressures and demands will start to ease, and thus, you will have more time for leisure, travel, and a bit of fun. However, as your astrologer, I do suggest April, your birth month, as ideal for pleasure and a bit of freewheeling. In April, Mercury will be fully installed in your sign, thus giving you pep and go, verve and vivacity. That's the time to shoot cupid arrows, travel, tour, switch jobs, attend to both personal and professional pursuits.
No, I have not forgotten March. March

is definitely for finance, buying and selling,

Bejan Daruwalla on what the new year has in store for you

fund and capital raising, a lavish dinner or two, renovation and publication, smart clothes and real elegance. March has much to do with money!

May-June usually have a strong interlink for Ariens, because fashions and style, financial deals and negotiations, started in May, will have an echo and an answer in June, a lucky and important month for you. Use June very particularly for contacts and communication, transport and publicity, as the full moon in Gemini will help you to be dynamic and attractive. Keep your eyes peeled for the mail and also the males/ females as the case may be. Got it, dear readers? June is for news and messages.

While July highlights home, house, property, the inner circle of friends and sweethearts, it is in August, that you will really find yourself and your true bearing. Marriage, engagement, collaborations, top drawer creativity, children and brain children, hobbies and pleasures, in a word, all that is nice and full of superb spice, fall in your lap, then. If there is a surplus or a surfeit, remember, I am waiting to snatch

September finds you working at full steam, and therefore, health is a bit suspect, specially as you Ariens go to extremes: Also, on September 13, Jupiter. by Western astrology, changes signs, stimulates your house of work and rewards. It is obvious that work will be

worship and the awards as well as recogn tion—and we all need it—will be satisfar tory. Work with a will. What you plug i now will bear fruit till October 10, 1992. is also the right time to ask for favour: promotion, perks, or do a job-hop.

October through December firmly cor

solidates the new work direction. In Octo ber, alliances and wedlock is a distinct

probability.

November spotlights joint-finance, part nership ventures, sex, buying/selling an negotiating, loans and funds. Improve ments in the home are destined. Costs an expenses will soar the high heavens, but suppose, you can't have everything. must point out that there is a slight dange of ill-health, accidents and operations r the last three months of the year.

December marks a culmination point i terms of children, journey, publicity, cere mony and functions, specially as, Mars your main planet, enters your lucky 9t angle on November 30. In Mars he hold different and original. Artists, politicians scientists, importers and exporters, show men and women, engineers and interio decorators, come into their own. You wi reap a harvest in December.

TAURUS: 1991 has two dynamic trends and strands, which, merge, as well as oppose, each other. They are: a) house and home, b) the outside world. It is this apparent paradox, which gives 1991 distinct flavour and aroma. Let me eluci date.

Jupiter, the planet of expansion in you 4th slot, definitely suggests renovation decoration, refurbishing, and in quite a fev instances, a house move Till Septembe 11, 1991, Jupiter will continue to beautif your home, and many Taureans will be making changes and additions which lend comfort and utility. Yes, you folks de specilise in fusing beauty and utility.

Saturn, the ring-master of the circus o life, cracks the whip on you, and make: you work your guts and gore out. Good fo you! Good for you, because you have the strength, stamina, skills to reach the top whether an editor, a painter, a chemist, manager, a stenographer, a laundry spe cialist, a publisher, an actor, or a house wife. Taureans make superb housewives i they set their hearts on it. Personally, salute the housewife, because her worl never, but never stops.

As a rule, the lucky color of Taurean

are shades of blue. This year too blue is strongly advocated for them. Yellow and mustard can also be worn to great advantage. I would personally suggest heavy make-up for women in 1991. That goes for jewels, eye-shadow, hand bags and all accessories.

January is a livewire month for you, as communication and correspondence, journey and ceremony, publicity and travel, will have top priority. Till January 21, Mars will be in your sign, Western astrology, enabling you to spearhead a movement and be forceful. Dress in your best now as you will make a lasting impact.

From February work pressures startbuilding up—but that also means you will achieve, as effort is an important ingredient for success—and these will continue up to May 21, 1993. I see a chop and change in your work area, no doubt about that. You will be clambering the social and the power rungs, and it will usher in jealousies, rivalries and a lot of mud slinging. So, get set for the fray, ready for the battle.

March has a special message for you: group activity and socialising. Try not to play the lone ranger now. The moon's quarters on the 8th and the 23rd will stimulate your interest in people, love, clothes, jewels, children, large corporations and organisations. You should go all out to slay everybody by your indubitible charm and magnetism.

In a manner of speaking, April and May, will be a continuation of March. However, April will be expensive as everybody will be making incessant demands, your health may not be excellent, and you could find yourself forced to look after friends and relatives. May, your birth month has you bursting with ideas. Expect visits or letters or calls from relatives and friends. They wish you well.

In June-July, you will be exhibiting your financial jugglery prowess and skill in manipulations and permutations. Matters related to office, home, godowns, warehouse, jewellery, other valuables, perfumes, will figure strongly in your life. These two months could also change your lifestyle.

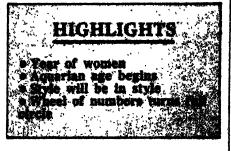
July shares the common factor of journey and ceremony with August. August definitely focalises your home, children, environment, artistic tendencies, research nsights, entertainment and amusement, as the sun, power, conjuncts Jupiter, good ortune around the 18th.

The trend of children, hobbies, home, artistic pursuits will overlap into September, and the chances are that, you will be ejuvenated and ready for the kill, be it tusiness, love, sports, games, or just measure. It is in September, that, Jupiter hanges signs by Western astrology, making you more dashing, amorous and lively.

Cheers! I must point out, that, from September 13, 1991 to October 10, 1992, widowers, spinsters, confirmed bachelors and of course the fancy-free have a great chance to marry or have at least a strong relationship. The taste of it will linger forever!

October to December find you making positive plans for the future. October envelops your work frontier completely. Even then, you will find time for fun and play. That's wonderful. November stirs your passions and your imagination, stokes your feelings, and you will be ardent. A marriage is on the cards between November 1991 to, say, May 1992. Personally, I would prefer January 1992, as the sun will form a lucky formation with Jupiter then. A transfer, a journey, a move is quite probable in December. December is a half-way house for the next year, 1992.

GEMINI: You will loop the loop, beat the best at his/her own game, be a champ, and have the glory of a thousand suns! Gemini, the communication expert of the Zodiac, will shoot straight, negotiate, come to an understanding with himself/herself, help



out others too. 1991 is your year of movement; physical, mental, spiritual, emotional. That's the key to it all. In 1991 you will be going places in more senses than one. You will be taking the quantum leap forward. Trust your intuition, be amiable, socialise, be ready for thrills and spills and say a big yes to life and love!

The last 2½ years you could have been in the money, in one way or the other, as buying/ selling/ trading/ shopping / moving, must have been an important feature. Matters related to legacy, joint-finance must have played a useful part in your life. Housing and accommodation too must have had their important say.

1991 favours, very particularly, journalists, copywriters, artists, musicians, playwrights, actors, actresses, and those in showbiz and research. Of far great importance is the prediction that this year marks an evolutionary change, a certain maturity and understanding, in your values and goals, and makes you aspire for the highest and the very best. In other words,

it is a year of strong, powerful motivation. As we all know a motivation is the mother of success.

January is for completing pending financial deals and negotiations. A journey is possible. You will be commuting a lot, shifting and shuttling about. Health, is however, suspect, and you are advised to have a medical check-up if you feel unwell. Better to be safe than surry, as the saying goes.

It is in February that you really come into your own as Saturn enters your angle of good luck, knowledge, wisdom, studies, research, innovation, motivation, journey, ceremony, publicity on February 7.

By March you will be springing ahead, going into the fast lane, be it sports, studies, business, job, profession. You will pull away from others in the race of life. Mars, the war lord, will be in your sign in February-March giving a rocket thrust to your pursuits and plans. Seize the initiative, use your glib tongue and deftnessably, and win the game. The range: from telecommunications and research to being' a spiritual guru, and that's saying a great deal in any language.

April is not the cruellest month of the year as it was for T.S. Eliot, but one of the best ever for you. A happy abundance of love and laughter, luck and money, friendship and partying, good clothes, good living, await you. In April-May, Venus, the charmer flits in your sign, Western astrology, giving you wit, grace, charm, the three lethal weapons, which lead to triumph and happiness. Game, set, match, Geminis! April is for ties and attachments and marriage or an engagement.

Though Venus remains in your sign the first nine days of May, it will be an expensive and extravagant month. You could well be in an introspective mood. Journey plans will have to be finalised. As the sun squares Jupiter now, you could feel low from time to time. But don't brood.

The month of June will be a faithful ally and companion to you. It won't let you down. Thanks to the trio of Mars-Venus-Jupiter, your efforts will be richly rewarded, your popularity will soar, so will your bank-balance, friends will look up to you, the family will be pleased.

July is essentially for family, finance and a possible journey or trip. The good work you did in June will be carried over into July. A family reunion is on the cards in July-August. Home could well be the centrepiece of attention and attraction. June to August would be about the right time to launch a project, start a venture, expand in existing one, begin a side-business or job or work overtime.

To be concluded

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RIES

March 21-April 20 Those connected with the media do exceptionally well. Pay heed to news and views, messages and calls. It is time for a journey, love and ceremonies. You will have a generous slice of romance. Negotiations, contracts and assignments make you happy. You will be fit as a fiddle. Changes at home are probable around the 8th.

AURUS 1 April 21-May 20 You will be driven forward and your work will be done. Children and romance make you happy. Money and deals keep you busy. Ro-mance will be in bits and parts, involving light flirtations. An undercurrent of pressure and tension could tell on your health. Relax, meditate and listen to music. A trip and a home away from home are likely.

EMINI May 21-June 20 The accent is on finance, family, funds, entertainment, hosting a party and having a get-together. Finance and romance now make a perfect team. Deals, documents and transactions are the key to the week. Await letters, calls and contacts on the 5th and the 10th. if you do get tired it will best to relax completely for a day or so. A journey, shift and transfer are distinct possibilities.

ANCER

June 21-July 20 You will be impatient, daring and enterprising and therefore can expect rapid developments in your personal and professional life. This is the right time for romance. As regards finance, new developments are certain. Journey, trips and ties form an important trio for Cancereans. There will be minor problems regarding your health, caused by arguments and hassles. Plenty of commuting and an addition to the family are foretold.

July 21-August 21 A job-hop and a fatter pay packet, promo-ion and a journey are foreseen. The accent really is on finance. Your work will force you to travel which could also mean a return o the roots. Health will require a ittle attention. Renovation, decoration, buying and selling are ated.



IRGO

Aug 22-Sept 22

socialising, children, creativity,

luxuries and comforts, auccess in communications and trips are

the main trends of the week. In

romance your heart will be a

hunter and imagination will do

the rest. Avenues and openings

for enterprise, industry, trade

and commerce should give you confidence. Your health will re-

main fine so get all set for action.

Home and family keep you occu-

Entertainment, plea-

sure and profit,















pied. There might be expansions in business.

IBRA Sept 23-Oct 22 There will be pressure of work, both on the home and the business front. Do not be impatient, wait and everything shall turn out fine. In finance you will go all out to make a fast buck. Regarding health, a little care is definitely needed. Work might demand a trip, a call or a visit. In the next three months, there may be a shift to a new house.



CORPIO Oct 23-Nov 22 The main trends are

journey, caremony completion of a project and resounding success in everything in romance, the game of love will be played to perfection. There will be a better career graph from 1991, You will be on to better things. An improvement in health leads to more energy and conse quent achievements. Travel is destined, also expect visitors to drop in.

AGITTARIUS

Nov 23-Dec 20 Finances, loans funds, new methods of using transport and

communications, shifts and transfers, and perhaps a trip with a stop-over are the main trends, in romance, there will be a blend of passion and imagination. A few pitfalls and perhaps a surgery are indicated with regard to your health.

APRICORN

Dec 21-Jan 19 Contacts, collaborations, a few quarrels and hassies, travel and a reaching out to people and places, wedding or an official engagement form the complex astro menu for Capricornians. Time to set the ball rolling in financiál matters. Romance will bring great times but not smooth times. There will be an improvement in health shortly.

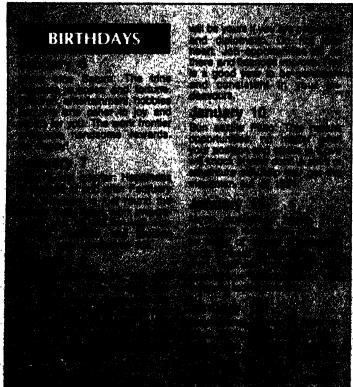
QUARIUS

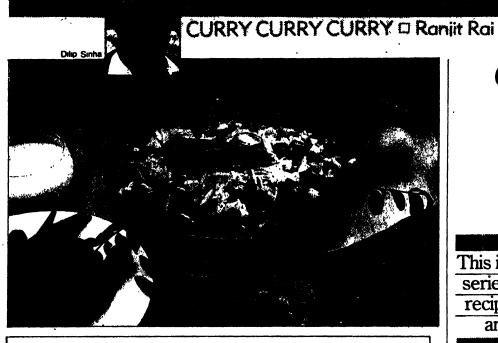
Jan 20-Feb 18 You will face keen competition in your job and profession and here you had better put in your best. Mercury helps you to close deats and switch jobs but the going will not be easy. There will be enough to keep you satisfied in matters of the heart. Regarding your health, periodic check-ups and reat are essential. Travel is titlely in January. Your home may require a cost of paint or a total renovation. See that value

ables are not misplaced. ISCES ... Feb 19-Mensh 20

You will have your fill of romance. New be-

ness are foretold. In finance, new enterprises keep you busy you regain lost ground in health. Travel is on the cards. Children and hobbies will make you home: a happy one.





British	Metric	Ingredients	American
18 oz	½ kg	okra (bhindi), tender	18 oz
		groundnut oil (I), to deep fry okra	
1 tbsp	15 g	split chick pea lentils	1 tbsp
20	20	curry leaves	20
2-3 fl oz	50-75 ml	groundnut oil (II)	1-3 cup
Construction (added 19) Strings over the action of the strings over the st	si	nge-fry . masala	
1 tsp	3.75 g	mustard seed	1 tsp
1 tsp	2 g	coriander powder	1 tsp
1 tsp	3.5 g	turmeric powder	1 tsp
1 tbsp	6 g	chilli powder	1 tbsp
1 tsp	1.5 g	cumin seed, whole	½ tsp
	fo	ilow-up masala	•
2	2	onions, finely chopped	2
1 tsp	2.5 g	ginger, finely chopped	1 tsp
-	durin	ig-cooking masala	,
1 tsp	1.25 g	amchoor	½ tep
1 tsp	5 g	salt, to taste	1 tsp
3	3	green chillies, cut in half and de-seeded,	3
	fle	niching mesale	
3 oz (<u>†</u> cup)	85 g	yoghurt, whisked	f ont
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	9	arnish messia	
2 dinne	90	grated cocorus	2 thens

Curried Okra: South Indian

This is the first of our new series on mouthwatering recipes, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian

My children have Keralite spouses. This dish has been asked to be repeated several times since it was first prepared by my daughter. Okra is now a popular vegetable the world over.

Serves 3

Cooking Time: 20-25 minutes

Method

Wash and dry okra. Cut into 2-3 pieces each. Take enough oil to be able to deep fry the okra, and deep fry till brownish. Drain on kitchen paper.

In the same oil deep fry curry leaves till crisp for about one minute. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper. In the same oil deep fry the split chick pea dal for about 30 seconds. Remove with a slotted spoon and keep aside.

Take another saucepan and bring 50 g of oil to smoking. Add the singefry masala with turmeric coming last. When it stops sizzling, immediately add the follow-up masala and stir fry till the onions soften. Add deep fried okra, curry leaves and split chick pea. Stir fry for a few minutes and add the during-cooking masala and continue stir frying for 2 minutes. Add the finishing masala and reduce heat. Stimmer for 4-5 minutes stirring gently. The curry should be semi-viscous. Transfer to a serving dish. Mix ingredients of the garnish masala and sprinkle on top.

This curry is eaten with rice or puri.

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India; 1990; Rs 85

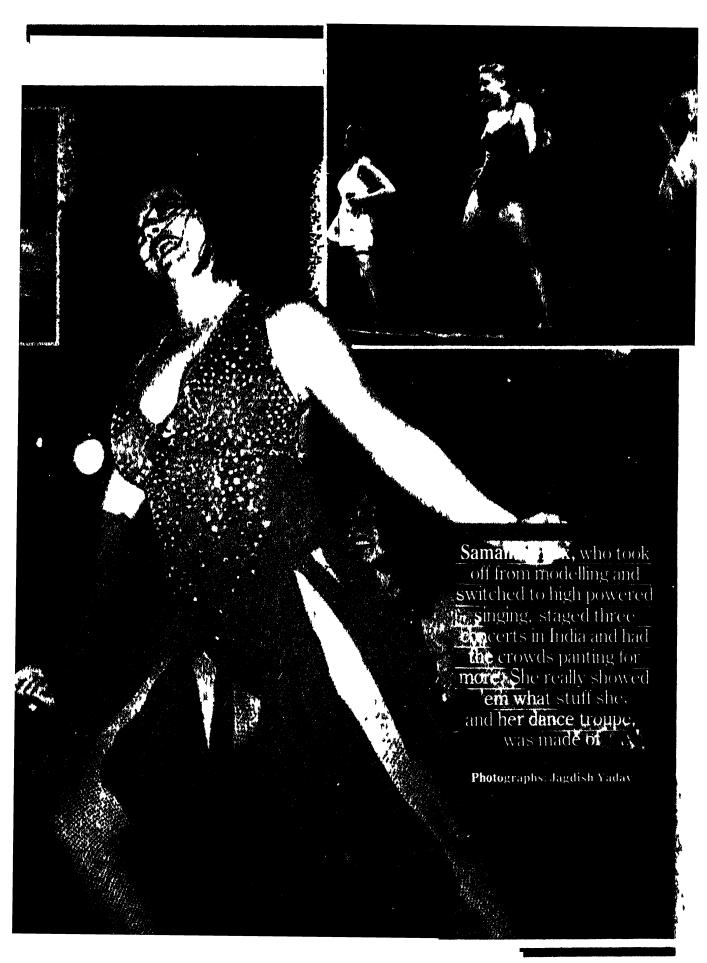
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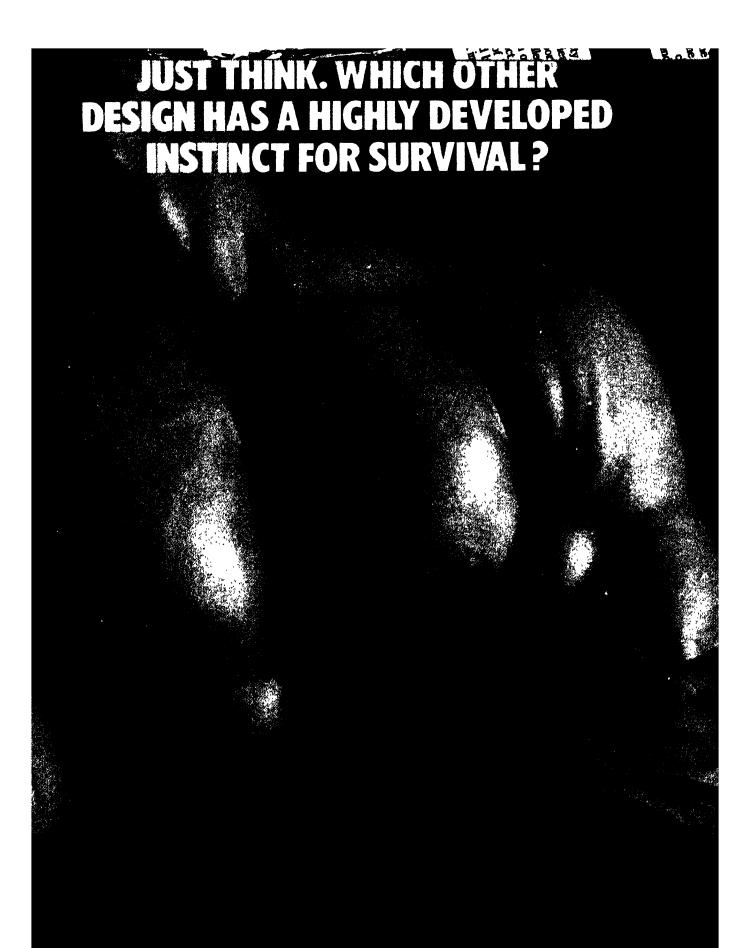




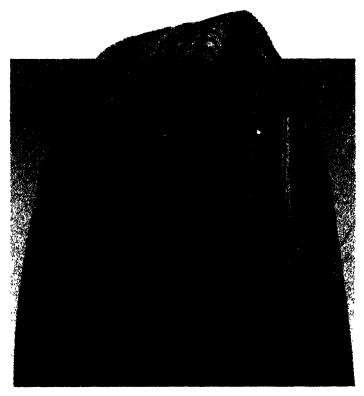


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he R-90 undergoes 511
quality inspections. A bit
much, you'd think.

But when you find
yourself on roads lashed by
rains or laced with melting ice, you'll
probably respond the way our international
experts did.

For one, you'll praise the R-90's tread for pumping out water so fast that, even in monsoons, the grip area is almost always dry.

Next you'll marvel at the R-90's precise response to acceleration, steering and braking.

During the height of summer, you'll be glad that we built a heat-and-cut resistant compound into the tread. And that the body plies are constructed with nylon polymer with exceptional temperature tolerance.

So one thing's for sure. When you next confront the madness that is India's driving conditions, you'll willingly acknowledge what lakhs of car-owners have always believed about the R-90.

"It's a miracle!"

R90 EXECUTIVE

Car Tyre

A MIRACLE OF DESIGN.



limbing 5,554m. high Kalapathar in Khumbu (Mount Everest) region in Nepal and doing yoga on top of it (literally) at sub-zero temperature was no uphill task for Chittaranjan Samanta, a 57" yoga enthusiast. At such a high altitude, where an ordinary mortal would have been left gasping for breath and chilled to the bone due to the high velocity winds, this 29-year-old did the impossible, performing physically demanding exercises with de-





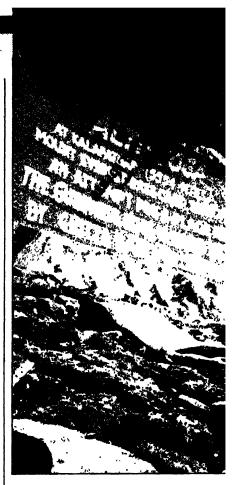
xterity and finesse very few are capable of. Of the 162 postures that he managed to do, 122 were completed in a little over five hours starting at 8.20 am on October 16. It was the fulfilment of a long cherished dream.

In all likelihood Samanta is the only person in the world to have undertaken any such feat with success. This may well earn him a mention in the prestigious Guinness Book of World Records, as was evident from the letter sent to him by the correspondence editor of the book. In reply to Samanta's asking about his prospect of creating a record, Martin Day, correspondence editor, Guinness Publishing Limited, said, "This is a most interesting story and the first of its type that we have received." But the company regretted that

At an altitude of 5,554
metres, anyone would be
gasping for breath and
having a chill down his
spine. But it takes a
Chittaranjan Samanta to
do yoga up there and
stake a claim to the
Guinness. He talked
about his feat to
DEBASHIS
BHATTACHARYA on a
more reasonable level

Samanta's achievement could not be considered a record since it would be the first of its kind and "records in our sense essentially have to be both measurable and comparable, that is, tallest, fastest, heaviest and tend to have arisen as a result of a great deal of (preferably international) competition."

But the attempts undertaken at the "sole risk of claimant" could earn him a mention in the books sport-endurance-events pages, the letter added. Samanta, who began preparing for the high altitude yoga early this year, which he calls 'Alti-Yoga', left for Kathmandu on October 26 with two friends. A bus ride brought them to Jiri. The trekking to Kalapathar, closer to Mt Everest base camp, began on a memorable note. "I was practising yoga in the afternoon at Jiri when suddenly some local boys started aping me. Local villagers





soon began to gather with their womenfolk to watch. Soon a betting on my performance began, which resulted in a fight among the villagers," said Samanta.

From Jiri to Bunder to Sete, Junbasi, Manidingma, Bubsa, Puiyan, Surke, Jorsala, Namchebazar, Theingboche, Pheriche, Lobuche and finally Gorakhsep. It was a long 14-day trek on winding mountain path, crisscrossed by rivers. Deep forests



determination kept him going. The 16th morning saw him climb Kalapathar and carry out his programme. "In sub-zero temperature I,clad in a yellow track suit, did altogether 122 yoga postures one after another from 8.20 am. The foreign climbers and sherpas looked on astounded." He did some of the *yogasanas* bare-bodied as "I was not feeling cold and thought it might be a good idea."

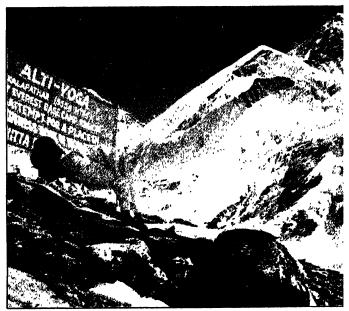
Samanta, a sales officer of an arrconditioner company, says, "I had an urge within to prove that yoga could, among many other things, help one withstand height and cold, thus making it popular among hill people and climbers. And an inexplicable desire from my childhood to do something impossible, hitherto untried and unheard of, might have prompted me to undertake the expedition."

Born to a farmer family in Burdwan, Chittaranjan, seventh of 12 children, is not new to yoga. Inspired by Iron Man Nilmani Das's book on yoga at the age of 10, he won the Burdwan district yoga championship for four consecutive years **from** 1982, stood third in the Bengal yoga competition in 1983 and won the inter-college and university championships in 1985. And

many more.

This year he also represented the Youth Hostel Association of India, Howrah





and snow-capped Himalayan peaks bordered the way. "Foreign tourists and climbers who traverse the route frequently saw me performing yoga and asked me whether I was a sanyasi meditating in the Himalayas. When I replied in the negative they wondered how a person could do such exercises after a long, tiring trek throughout the day and yet look so fresh. They asked me to teach them which I did,

for a handsome pay."

Staying at Gorakhsep (over 17,000ft) was difficult in a broken-down hut. Says Samanta, "The five days that we spent at Gorakhsep were really tough. We had only one polythene sheet to cover our heads as the hut had no roof. Incessant snowfall coupled with heavy gale tore the sheet and I was doubtful whether I would be able to finish my programme." But

branch, in 'Yuva Milap,' at the Gandhi Darsan Maidan, New Delhi. Samanta says that while trekking along several routes in the Himalayas including Roopkund (16,500ft) and Sandakphu, he performed yoga all the way to make his expenses meet.

About his future plans Samanta refuses, to say anything except: "I will do something more dangerous."

7 DAYS

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Baaghi: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Priya (Rashbehan Avenue; 464440)—4 shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Nagma are the lead pair. The film is directed by Deepak Shivdasam and the music is by Anand Milind.

Bahaar Aane Tak: New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra. Road; 552932), Rupali (Ashutosh Mookerjee Road; 474403) - 4 shows.

A musical romance, starring Rupa Ganguly, Sumeet Saigal, Navin Nischal, Tariq Shah and Moon Moon Sen The film is directed by Tariq Shah and the music is by Rajesh Roshan.

• Dil: Mini Gern (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828)—3 shows.

One of the recent big hits, starring Aamir Khan and Madhun Dixit. The film is directed by Indra Kumar and the music is by Anand Milind.

• Ekdin Achanak: Nandan (1 AJC Bose Road)—3, 6.

A Mrinal Sen film, starring Shreecain Lagoo, Shabana Azmi, Aparna Sen, Rupa Ganguly and Anil Chatteriee.

• Nache Nagin Gali Gali:

Roxy (Chowringhee Place: 284138)—4 shows.

Directed by Mohanji Prasad and with music by Kalyanji Anandji, the main attractions of this film are Meenakshi Seshadri, Nitish Bharadwaj, Sadashiv Anrapurkar and Shreeram Lagoo.

• Pratibandh: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—noon.

A film by Ravi Raja, starring Chiranjeevi, Juhi Chawla and Rami Reddy. The music is by Laximkant Pyarelal.

• Shiva: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917)—11.45, 2.45, 5.45, 8.45, Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 484808), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandia Road; 365108)—4 shows.

A film by Ramgopal Varma, starring Nagarjuna as Shiva. Others co-starring are Amala, Raghuvaran, Paresh Rawal and Girija Shankar, with Rohim Hattangady, Goga Kapor, Dilip Dhawan, Bina Banerji and Chandrasekhar in special appearances. The music is by Ilayaraaja.

• Thanedaar: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kisseen Street; 554033)—4shows.

Directed by Raj Sippy, the film stars Jeetendra, Jaya Prada, Sun-



Sanghamitra Banerjee and Satabdi Roy in Abhimanyu

jay Dutt and Madhuri Dixit. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

Bengali Films

• Aashrita: Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686) — 1, 4, 7.

The story of a woman's struggle against social injustice, this Chan-

dra Barot film stars Mithu Mukhenjee, Manjula Das and Kanwaljeet. The music is by Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

• Abhimanyu: Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee; 474567)—3 shows; Prachi (AJC Bose Road; 271282)—2, 5, 8.

The maiden directorial venture of Biplab Chatterjee who also stars along with Sournitra Chatterjee, Satabdi Roy, Deepankar De, Rabi Ghose, Prabhat Roy, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Dilip Roy, Bimal Dev and Sunil Mukherjee. The music is by Mrinal Banerjee.

• Jowar Bhata: Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200)—3 shows; Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)—mat. & even.

Directed by Dulal Bhowmick, the cast includes Chirangeet, Satabdi Roy, Subhendu Chatterjee, Rabi Ghose, Sumanta Mukherjee, Meenakshi Goswami, Master Bitu and Soumitra Chatterjee. The music is by Ajoy Das.

• Larai (A): Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045), Hund (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 274259), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 478141)—3 shows.

Prasenjit, Ritu, Samrat, Indrani, Soumitra Chatterjee, Utpal Dutt and Manjula comprise the cast. The film is directed by Rana Mukherjee and the music is by R.D. Burman.

• Mahaajan: Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—2.45, 5.30, 8.15.

An Anjan Choudhury film, starring Utpal Dutt, Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Joy Banerjee, Chumki Choudhury and Tapas Paul. The music by Swapan Chakraborty.



6 January: 11 am

Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad presenta Gopi Kriahna Kanoria Memorial Lecture by eminent scholar Dr Anand Krishna. Topic: Aesthetics of Indian Art.

At Bharativa Bhasha Parishad (36A Shakespeare Sarani). '6 January onwards: 12 noon-7

The 55th Annual All India Fine Arts Exhibition in the West, Central North, New South, South and New galleries, till January 14.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302). 6 January onwards: 6 pm

Udayam and Calcutta Tamil Sanham celebrate Thyagabrahma Utsavam with classical music programmes by young talents, till Janu-

At Sankara Hall (93 Southern Avenue).

6 January: 10 am & 6 pm
The concluding day of Kerala Kalamandalam's diamond jubilee celebrations features lecturedemonstration on Mohini Attam, Kudisttam and Kathakali at 10 am: and Kathakali, Mohini Attam and Nangiar Koothu recitals in the

evening.
At Rala Mandir (B) (morning) and at Vidya Mandir (evening).

7 January: 5.45 pm

Aasthaee's cultural programme features songs by Haimanti Sukla, recitation and shruti natak by Amalendu Bhattacharyya, Papiya

Adhikary and Sreela Majumder, and folk songs by Utpalendu Chowdhury.
At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral

Road; 289978).

8 January: 6 pm Airlines Cultural Organisation's seventh annual social features a drama, Choreder Lajia Holo, a Kathak recital by Sushmita Banerjee and songs by Subir Sen.

At University Institute Hall (College Square).

12 January: 8.45 am
To mark Swami Vivekananda's 128th birth anniversary, the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture presents a classical music festival, divided into three sessions. The first session at 8.45 am features an inaugural address, i

'Swami Vivekananda and Indian Classical Music', by Swami Lokes-warananda, to be followed by Ajoy Chakraborty (vocal) with Sanjoy Mukherjee (tabla), tabla duet by Alia Rakha and Zakir Hussain with Ramesh Mishra (naghma), and Mallikarjun Mansur (vocal) with Balakrishna Iyer; the second session at 2.45 pm includes Hari Prasad Chaurasia (flute) with Sabir Khan (tabla), and Birju Maharaj (Kathak) with Zakir Hussain (tabla); and the third session at 6.30 pm includes C.R. Vyas (vocal) with Samar Saha, Shiv Kumar Sharms (santoor) with Zakir Hussam, and Bhimsen Joshi (vocal) with A.G. Bandopadhyay and Purushottam Walawalkar.

At Vivekananda Hall (Goal Park).

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915; Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Celeutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): Al-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2026. London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7):

Al-132/1325 at 1280.

* Moscow-Bharjah-Calcutte: Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1625. * Calcutte-Bharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4): SU-536 at 1825. * Moscow-Teehkent-Karachi-

Calcutta-Hanol: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0755; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0905. * Hanol-Calcutta-Karachient-Moscow: Arr. (2). SU-542 at 1755; Dep. (2); SU-542 at 1905.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-185 at 0830.

Amman-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184 at 0800

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-420 at 1310.

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2). SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at 1210. .

Calcutta-Bengkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7): (C-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-

kok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): FIA-214 at 1530.

Kethmandu-Galoutte: Arr. (2, 4, 8 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): RA-

213 at 1430. Calcutte-Dheka: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (6): IC-723 at 1240, Dep. (daily): 80-092 at 1150 and 8G-098 at 2020, Dep. (1, 4, 7):

BG-094 at 1700. Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr. (6): IC-724 at 1500, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (daily): BG-091 at 1110 and BG-097 at 1940, Arr. (1, 4, 7): BG-093 at 1620.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (6): IC-225 at 1330; Dep. (2, 5): BG-

698 at 1355. Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr. (6): IC-226 at 1550; Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 1310.

Celoutta-Pare: Dep. (2): KB-108 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (2). Al-101 at 0230 Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1): Al-1328 at

Indian Airlines I

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily) 1C-263 at 0800 and IC-402 at 1730; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1240 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-176 at 0850 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-265 at 1715; Arr. (daily) IC-266 at 2205

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 1040; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at 0915.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-271 at 1620; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2150.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0830, Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 8): IC-730 at 1130, Arr. (dally): IC-230 at 1630.

alcutta-Tezpur-Jos Calcutta: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-

dule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For secistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 262680, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines sche-

213 at 0805; Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 1200.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-219 at 0810; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-220 at 1250 Calcutta-Shubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabed: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6) IC-270 at 2040.

Calcutta-Imphal: Dep (2 4, 7) IC-259 at 1330; Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-260 at 1610

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily). IC-255 at 0740; Arr (daily). IC-256 at 1220

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 1305; Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1635.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna Lucknow-Deihi: Dep. (daily): IC-410 at 0905; Arr (daily) IC-409 at

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545; Arr (2, 4, 6). IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1) IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Agartela: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5): IC-243 at 1400, Dep. (daily) 4, 5): 1C-243 at 1400, Dept. (0atry) IC-241 at 0800, Dept. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-245 at 1000, Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 1000, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1450, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5): IC-244 at 1800, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6). IC-246 at 1200.

Celcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1500; Arr. (daily): IC-222

Caloutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 7): IC-277 at 1745; Arr (1, 2, 7) IC-278 at 2215.

Vavudoot

Calcutta-Agartala-Imphal: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-727 at 0530; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-728 at 1120. Arr. (1, 3, 5). Francis Allohar: Calcutta-Agartais-Silohar: Dep. (7): PF-729A at 0550; Arr. (7): PF-730A at 1050 Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-

Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-701 at 1140; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-702 at 1615

Coloutta-Agertala-Kamalpur-Kaileshahar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4, 6). PF-729 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-730 at

Calcutta-Silcher-Shillong-Guwahati-Silohar-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-701 at 1100; Arr. (2, 4, 6). PF-702 at 1715. Calcutta-Rourkela: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-715 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-716 at 0855.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lileberi-Dibrugerh-Tezu: Dep. (2, 6): PF-709 at 0815; Arr (2, 6): PF-710 at 1840.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lileberl-Dibrugarh: Dep. (4): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (4): PF-710 at 1750.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jornat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tesu: Dep. (7): PF-709 at 0800; Arr. (7): PF-710 at 1705.

Calcutta-Alzewi-Slicher-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7):

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkant-Calcutta.

PF-705 at 0915; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-706 at 1620. Calcutte-Agartela: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729A at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730A at 1410. Calcutta-Alzawi-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705 at 0910 and PF-729B at 1310; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706 at 1255 and PF-730B at 1655. Calcutta-Jamahadpur-Ranohi-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0550; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1115. Calcutta-Jamahadpur: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0745.
Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-707 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-708 at 0655.

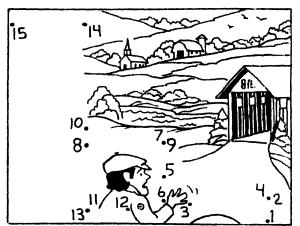
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TO THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

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3005	19-20	Amritaer Mell	8-05	3006	6003	20-40	Madres Meli	7-00	6004
3003 2381	20-00 9-15	Bombay Mail via Allahabad Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	13-15 18-00	3004 2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mell via Nagpur	8-00	8001
2501	B-10	press via Gaya-Varanasi	10-00	2302	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	2859
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8034	20-20	Ahmedebad Express	5-06	8033
1		Arr-Wed. Frl. & Sun.			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Deihl) Ex- press via Patna	18-00	2304	2611	14-30 22-35	Coromandei (Madras) Ex- press Bangalore Express	11 -80 13-45	2842 2612
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1		. Sun.			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	8008
i		Arr-Tues Wed. Thurs. Sat. &			8015	21-40	Renchi Hetie Express	6-05	8016
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2547	13-15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	8045	11-10	East Coast (Hydersbad) Ex-	14-66	8048
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3009	20-03	Chord Chord	7-20	3010	1		Arr-Except Sunday		
3007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	
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		Main Line				14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
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5659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	2000 5 66 0	1		Thursday only		
3317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	
3029	17-15	Coeffield Express	10-30	3030	1		Terminus Weekly Express		
3035	18-20	Assasol Express	8-45	3036			(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032			Saturday only	40 45	0054
3025	23-00	North Bihar Express Dep—Wednesday Arr—Friday	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)	13-45	2651
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6-00	3072	1		Dep-Fri. & Sun		
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1		Arr-Mon. Thurs. & Sat.			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	
3015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016			Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)		
2159	15-25	Chambal (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160			Wednesday only		
1		weekly Superfast Express			_	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
1		Dep—Thurs, Sat. & Sun. Arr—Tues, Wed. & Thurs.				14-10	Weekly Express (via Howrah	10 40	20,0
1 4474	15.05		7 20	1170	l		& Cuttack)		
1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express Dep—Tues. & Wed.	7-30	1172	Ì		Monday only		
1		Arr-Sat. & Sun.			2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	
3327	15-25	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Ex-	7-30	3328			minus Weekly Express (via		
	=4	press			l		Howrah)		
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5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express	10-40	5050	_	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2609
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3143	19-00	<u> Darjoeling Mail</u>	8-45	3144	İ				'
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3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152			round the clock information of		
3133	20-45	Mughai Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12-50		all oth	er Inform	al 203545-54 for in-coming train nation. For information about	recervation	ons on
3103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104			oth Eastern Railways trains, die		
5185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly Dep & Arr-Wed, Fri. & Sun."	4-30	5186	am to	on on the second	weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm (on Sunda	ys and
L	p /	Pah a vii Asan Lii a ani.			- Astado	-	7-7-		
						Y.)			

JUNIOR WHIRL & Ha Kaufmar



LOW BRIDGE! There is a problem shaping up at the low bridge shown. To complete scene, insert lines dot to dot.

 CITY TOUR! Unscramble letters to find names of five U.S. cities, 1. UP LAST 2. SAVE GALS, 3. SOAK PEN. 4. BOIL ME 5. LEG SALES ON

1 St Paul 2 Las Vegas 3 Spokene 4 Mobile 5 Los Angeles

	1	2	3	4	5
1	P	0	W	E	R
2	О				
3	W				
4	E				
5	R				

POWER BREAK PUZZLER

Let's see if you can deal with POW-ER. By design, power is the first of five words required to complete this word square. Definitions are as fol-

- 1. Brute force (already inserted).
- 2. Popeye's gal. 3. Tidies surface with a cloth.
- A happening.
 Takes a breather.

Remember, a word square is made up of words that read the same both across and down

Time limit: 2 min.

1 Power 2 Clive 3 Wipes 4 Event 5

• FARE 'NUFF! "I'll take you across the stream for 25 zlotskis each," said the boatman. Just then, two more persons arrived, and the boatman cut the fare to all to 20 ziotskis each.

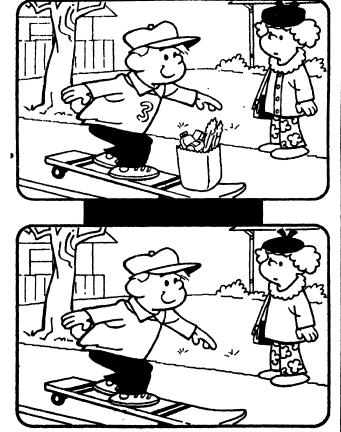
Nevertheless, he made 10 more zlotskis than he would have previously.

How many ferry passengers were there in all?

There were eight passengers, six at the start.



HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences: 1, Fence la amaller. S. Number la missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Bag of groceries is missing. 6. Hat is different. 6. Button strip is missing.

FUNSPOT



BAGGY PLANTS! it's leaf time — time to rake 'em, bag 'em, and drag 'em away. Colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5-Flesh tones. 6-Lt. green. 7-Dk. brown. 8-Orange.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

NEPOTISM

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points. aud recy .swosom eigherod



QUIZ | Nell O'Brien

ere is a special quiz

1. 'Gorbatchow' was launched in 1990. What is it?

 Which Calcuttan received the Padma Vibhushan in the Republic Day/honours?

3. King Baudoin of Belgium stepped down but was restored constitutionally within a few days. How did this happen?

 "Never Born/Never Died/ Only Visited this/Planet Earth Between/December 11, 1931-January 9, 1990" is whose epitaph?

5. In Canada who is the lobster patrol?

6. Who was dubbed the Beauty Queen from Hell?

7. Famous mountaineer

Reinhold Messner decided to name one of his pet yaks after which World Cup soccer star?

8. Who was the only Indian on the Cannes 1990

jury?

9. Which singer launched his own record label VV or Velvet Voices?

10. Which Indian restaurant has been voted among the 10 best in the world?

 According to Forbes magazine, the three world's highest paid sportsmen last year are boxers. Name them.

12. HMT presented a solar clock to Calcutta on the city's tercentenary. Where is it?

13. A new superfast train Shramjeevi Express

was introduced between which two points?

14. As part of the celebration of 40 years of the Peanuts comic strip which museum hosted an exhibition of cartoons and drawings?

15. Which country postponed its secondary school examination from June 21 to July 12 because of Italia 90?

16. Which Grey Man defeated which Tarzan?

17. What was the main play at the Hudson Theatre, New York, in 1990?

18. Who became the first indian Test cricketer to umpire a first class match?

19. A two-year survey by the | Washington-based |

Population Crisis Committee rated three cities as tieing for the highest living standard. One was Seattle-Tacoma. Name the other two.

20. Name the politician who described indian newspapers as commodities that "are read every morning and sold as raddi (waste) every afternoon".

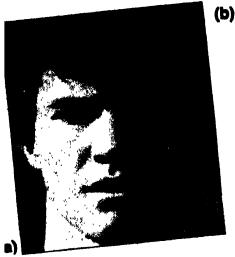
 Identify these two personalities who died during 1990 from their own selfdescriptions.

(a) The World's Greatest Entertainer.

(b) A Jesus freak.

22. Who is Dr Death?

23. They made the headlines. identify them:







A Happy 1991 to all !

ANSWERS

machine.

23. (a)Lothar Matthaeus,
European footballer of
the year.
(b) Bette Davis, Hollywood star who died during the year.
(c) Shahabudin
Ahmed, the new PresiAhmed, the new President of Bangladesh.

21. (a) Sammy Davis Junior. (b) Maicolm Muggeridge. 22. Dr Je Kevorkian, inven-

The intepressible Devision

World Chess.

16. John Major nicknamed Grey Man because of his grey hair defeated Michael Heseltine called Tarzan because of his long wavy hair for the Prime Ministership of Great Britain.

14. Louvre. 15. Bangladesh.

12. It front of the Reserve Sank Building. 13. Patna and New Delhi via Lucknow.

Mike Tyson, (ii) James Briete Doucks erc (iii) 'Sriete Conerc

Pankaj Udhas.
 Orient Express at the Tail
 Palace Hotel, New Delhi.

7. Salvatore Schillachi. 8. Mira Mair.

ing lobster.

8. Mong Grudt, Miss Norway, who won the Miss Universe beauty contest at Los Angeles. Her home-town is Hell, Norway.

secompanies Brian Mulroney, the Canadian 'ymy, M. mater, the Proving ing. The PM discovered him in a restaurant tasting lobater. neesh. 5. The food taster who

4. Osho Bhagwan Ra-

3. The King, a devout Fiorman Catholic, was by conscience opposed to giving his consent to a new abortion bill. He was therefore allowed to step down and by an amendown and by an amendown and by an amendown and by an amendown and bill betestored after the Bill betestored after the Bill became an Act.

2. Bhabatosh Datta, Economist.

A Swiss cigarette, town wony uov "e"s bemen

A Festive Mood in the air.

It's the time for Rich Fruit Cakes, Pastries and Various treats. Why not taste the Best at

The Sugar & Spice?'

1/2, Harish Mukherjee Road Phone 28-3742 Presents
DELICIOUS
CAKES
FOR CHRISTMAS &
NEW YEAR SEASON
at the entrance of
GREAT EASTERN HOTEL

Also available at Calculta Showtoom 29 Waterloo Street New Market Stall No E132-34





Experience
Cuisine
Par Excellence

LA-ZEEZ
RESTAURANT

83 Chowringhee Road, Calcutta 20





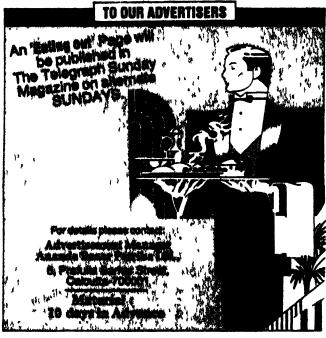


We promise you a memorable experience for

Indian and Continental Food..... Served with care

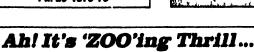
At Lytton Hotel

14, Sudder Street, Calcutta-700016. Ph: 29-1875-79

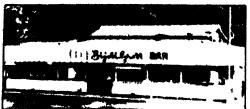


SHUCIIIIA Restaurant

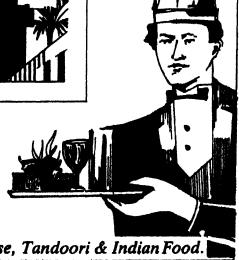
1/432, Gariahat Rd (South)
Cai-68, Near Jodhpur Park Bata
Famous for
CHINESE MUGHLAI
NORTH INDIAN AND
CONTINENTAL DISHES
Parties arrangement can also be made in
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THE CONFICINE



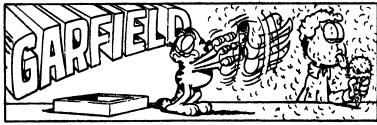
"6HE WAS ON THE PHONE FOR TWO HOURS BEFORE SHE REALIZED THE LINES WERE DOWN."

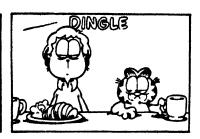




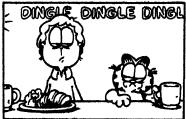


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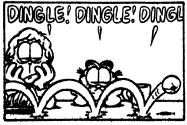


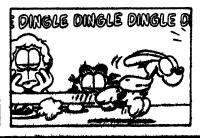






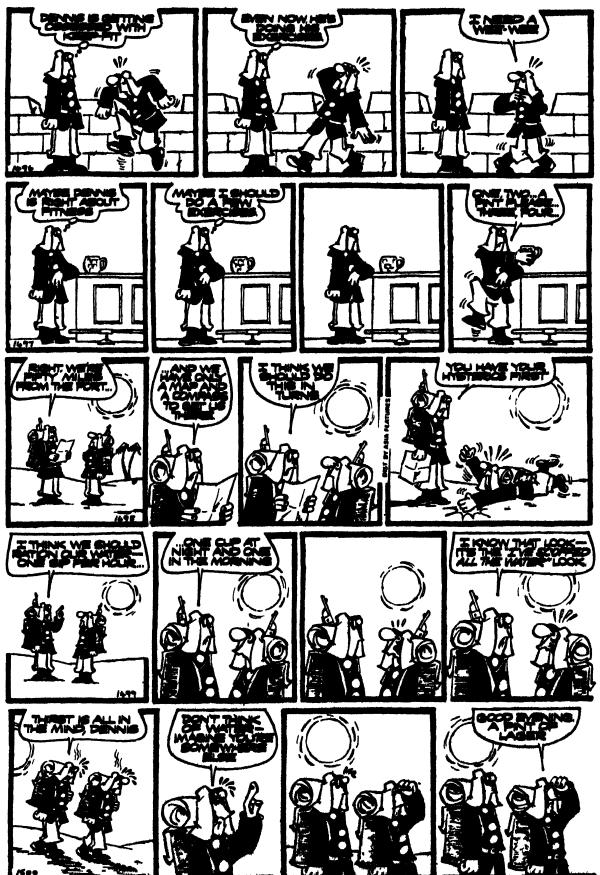




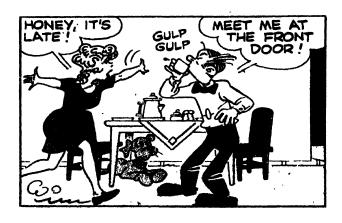


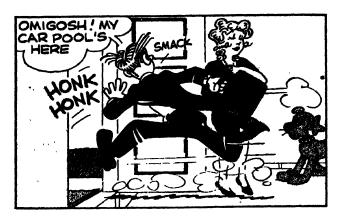


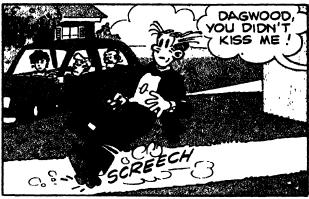


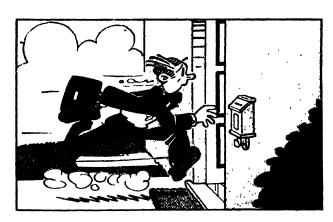
















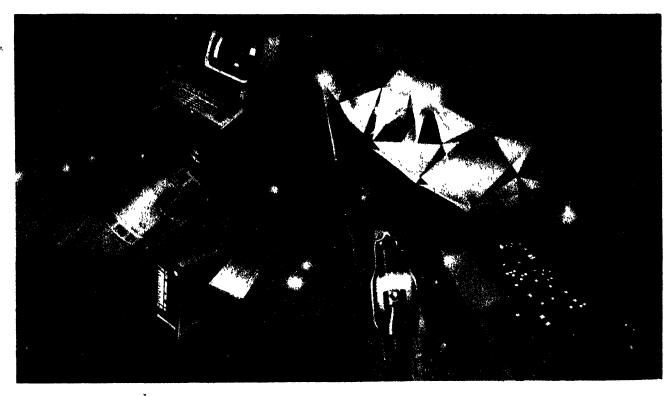


CANDID CAMERA



Coy? And Maneka Gandhi? The Bengal Chamber of Commerce invited the minister of state for environment to Calcutta, but if they were expecting her to hem and haw about vitiating the atmosphere, they must have been greenhorns. When it's Maneka, watch out! It's you who has to look for cover. Photograph by KALYAN CHAKRAVORTY

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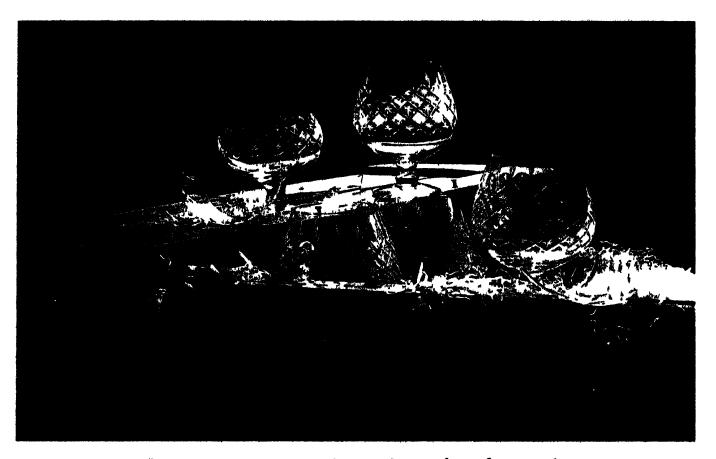
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RISK MANAGERS TO THE NATION."

POST MORTEM

So What?

There is nothing peculiar in the sudden comeback of Om Prakash Chautala ('Loser Takes All', November 18). Such things happen in Indian politics.

Look at how V.P. Singh become the leader of the Opposition in just two years. Then, see how he exploited everyone to become Prime Minister.

Please don't waste time in criticising the "rustic" politicians. Go for the socalled Jan Nayaks and the capitalistic comrades of India, instead.

Rakesh Verma, Calcutta

rites. On the one hand we boast of being literate, progressive and broadminded, and on the other we discriminate between a boy and a girl. Shovanial Bakshi.

The Kohlis can keep their chart for creating a boy and their trade secret as well. A similar chart appeared in Savvy July, 1988). Anyone who wants to use the Chinese chart could look up that issue and save himself Rs 500 in the

Reeta Das. Guwahati '

bargain!

Calcutta

■ How has the govern-



What Science?

After reading 'Boy or Girl' (October 28), I fully agree with the idea of putting a nationwide ban on sex determination tests. Abortion, too, should not be legalised except on specific and serious grounds. We must wake up from our slumber and terminate this 'only-boy' syndrome.

Pradeep Jain. Calcutta

■ I sincerely hope that. couples will have learnt something from the article and become less allergic to baby girls. How can they even think of such brutal deeds as murdering a child in its mother's womb?

Hemant Prasad Gupta. Calcutta

■ We are outright hypoc-

ment made abortion legal? It is one of the biggest crimes against humanity. If the parents can plan a baby, why can't they have the courage to bring it up. too, whether it is a boy or girl? Manav Jalan,

Calcutta

■ The myth that boys only care for their parents is now being shattered with an increasing number of boys neglecting their parents in favour of the 'Jamai Raja' treatment they receive at their in-laws' house.

As a mother of two girls, I can tell other would-be parents that, given proper and equal care, girls have. an enormous capability to face any challenge in life. We must learn to be proud

of our daughters. Sipra Sen Gupta, Calcutta

■ The story was nothing new. With the advance of science and the relaxation of laws and social obligations, lakhs of foetuses are aborted every year,

Earlier, abortion itself was considered a crime equal to murder, but today it is protected by the law. Prafulla Chandra

Debnath. Calcutta

■ I was sad to learn about the mass murder of female foetuses. It is ironic that in a country that considers woman as Shakti, such things, too, take place.

In India each god is worshipped along with his consort—Shiva with Parvati, Rama with Sita, Vishnu with Lakshmi, Krishna with Radha and so on.

Even among the Muslims, women hold a high place and the mother is an icon, as Bibi Marium and Bibi Fatma-tuz-Zohra. We, who indulge in such things and tolerate them, should hang our heads in shame.

Javed Nishat. Calcutta

Error

The cover story, 'Rogues' (October 7), by G.C. Shekhar makes a good case for the protection of wildlife. However, the photographs were made up be-Calise.

(i) the tusks did not show any marks of having been freshly cut,

(ii) the dead elephant had redundant tusk, which along with two tusks made a total of three tusks. No elephant has three tusks. and

(iii) there were no openings in the mouth of the dead elephant from which the tusks could have been taken out.

V. Rishi, Director, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

13 JANUARY 1991



Fakes have flooded the market, and they include many items that are highly dangerous, sold to unsuspecting victims. How deep in trouble are we?

Focusing on the deposed Bangladesh President H.M. Ershad and the women in his closet.

Calcutta's ladies now have a club all of their own: the Prima Donna.

A look at the Indian Museum which houses some very rare exhibits.

SECTIONS

13 Curry Curry Curry

20 7 Days

23 Junior Whirl

24 Quiz

26 Comics

30 Candid Camera

Cover: Vivek Das

CONTROVERSY

C Thate and I love. Perhaps you ask why I do so. I do not know. But I feel it and I am in torment," Bangladesh's deposed President, Hussain Mohammed Ershad, once told his close confidant and businessman, Shahjad Ali. It was at Ali's Dhaka residence that Ershad married Begum Marium Mumtaz alias Mary on August 14, 1982: his second wife. Ershad's two army friends, Brig. Ashraf and Brig. Nasır, were present as witnesses.

Mary was not the only woman in Ershad's eight-and-a-half-year rule in Bangladesh which ended ignominiously on December 6 last year. There were others like Zeenat Mosharaf (Hossain), Enayet

Power often whets the appetite for lust and lucre. And, then, comes the fall. Bangladesh's deposed President, H.M. Ershad, seems to be a perfect ROY, recently in Dhaka

example, reports RANJIT



Begum Raushan



Ershad with Begum Marium Mumtaz (Mary) in happier times

Nur, Amena Bari, Salsabil Hena and the country's popular singer, Nashid Kamal. If the press in Bangladesh, England and the US are to be believed, all these young beautiful ladies of Dhaka's high society at some point or another shared Ershad's bed while the sun shone for him.

To begin with, Ershad had good in-tentions and wanted to run his government honestly in the interest of his countrymen-till Mary came into his life. That was the beginning of his end as he succumbed to his desire for mahila and Taka.

Ershad knew Mary long before he dreamt of becoming the President of Bangladesh. In 1976 Ershad was the chairman of the anti-corruption committee when Mary met him to plead for her husband, Badruddin Amin, who had been arrested on charges of shortchanging the government in some business deals. At the very first meeting, Ershad's eyes gleamed and he made it quite obvious that he might consider her request.

After a few hesitant meetings, she gave in. And what began as casual encounters slowly matured into a torrid romance. After about six years, on August 14, 1982, Ershad reportedly married Mary in secret. He later denied this tie in the face of a sharp reaction from his first wife. Raushan. Ershad's men forced Mary to leave Dhaka and settle in New York for which the monetary compensation was handsome.

But Mary was not one to be satisfied with 'compensation money' and live in exile in a distant country forever. She decided to sue Ershad and made his life miserable. She hired the services of the US private detective agency, Fairfax Consultants Ltd, to help her collect evidence. Mary's petition is still pending in a London court.

In end-1987, Mary spent sometime in Delhi's Ashoka Hotel where in an interview to The Illustrated Weekly of India. she said she had no desire to live in exile the status of wife, and and wanted not mistress, of Ershad. "I want nothing, but the status of the First Lady of Bangladesh like Raushan," Mary was quoted as saying.

According to Mary, Ershad decided to marry her when he found his first wife was incapable of giving him a child. Ershad desperately wanted a son to inherit his wealth and power. When the report about Ershad's secret second marriage leaked out, the First Lady of Bangladesh, Raushan Ershad, raised Cain. She even publicly beat up Ershad with her chappals while he was in a meeting with senior ministers at the secretariat. Ershad had to leave the meeting with a bleeding nose and cuts on his chin.

Ershad's Prime Minister, Kazi Jaffar,

reportedly sympathised with Raushan when she angrily remarked, "Your President is a debauch. What he has done is against Islamic law. He has taken a second wife without my knowledge."

Ershad also did not lie low when Mary launched a tirade against him by giving a series of interviews to London's Sunday Observer, and The Illustrated Weekly of India Ershad allegedly paid \$10,000 to one of his Jatiya Party MPs staying in London to bump off Mary through hired killers But, fortunately for Mary, the plot failed and she fled to New York by the first available flight

aushan Ershad knew that her husband Rausnan Elshau Mic war and she did would go in for other women if she did not bear him a child She was in a fix as the possibility of becoming a mother seemed very remote at her age (45) At this stage of her torment, Raushan's mother re portedly brought a new born baby, said to be the son of Raushan's younger sister, from Mymensingh secretly and offered the baby to Raushan A few days later on lanuary 21, 1983, President Ershad offi mally announced that a son had been born to his wife Ershad threw a party to cele prate the occasion next week where 1,300 guests were treated to imported drinks and the choicest cuisine. The entire expenses were borne by the defence minisry, Ershad only paying for the three cows slaughtered for the feast

A detailed account of the feast and the story of how Ershad became a father can be found in the book *Politics of a Soldier*, written by Ershad's one-time friend in the irmy, Capt Muhammed Sahidul Islam and sublished by East West Publications of London, in 1989

Islam, in his book, says, "Ershad asked ne to arrange the party to celebrate the airth of his son in the army cantonment. I was in charge of the army's stores. My commander was Lt.-Col. Sheikh Amjad Jossain who was then a Major in the army. Col. Amjad told me to arrange the east and made it a point that the entire

expenses be borne by the army Col Am jad was a close friend of Ershad since the time they were both in Pakistan's Seventh Bengal Regiment I had to obey the order and it took several years to settle the account in the army's ledger books'

Ershad's seven-year-old son, Shaad, is now living with his parents in confinement. The interim government of Bangladesh has categorically denied that Shaad has also been arrested with his parents. But there is no denying the fact that if Ershad and his wife, Raushan, have to face trial for their crimes the question of Shaad's parentage will naturally come in for closer scrutiny. It is only then that the truth will be revealed

Ershad's controversial second wife, Mary, is now reportedly planning to re turn to Dhaka and to sue the deposed President in a Bangladesh court too. But she does not have many sympathisers in Bangladesh Even her father, Kazi Sham sul Huda, is against her return to Dhaka This correspondent met Shamsul at his residence, 'Manjan,' in Dhanmandi recent ly, but he refused to talk to any Indian journalist about his daughter. He simply said that he had wiped out Mary from his mind.

Shamsul and his family migrated to Dha ka from Calcutta after Partition in 1947. He retired as a secretary of the health department in 1975. Mary was the youngest of his children—four sons and two daughters—and he had arranged her marriage with Badruddin after prolonged negotiations between the two families. Mary has a daughter, Sabira who was born just a year after her marriage in 1965. Mary was then a first year student of a Dhaka college. Today, Mary is about 45 and lives in the US with Sabira in a rented apartment.

With the exit of Mary, another woman Zeenat Mosharaf, entered Ershad's life Zeenat was the wife of the Bangladesh commerce secretary, Janab Mosharaf, and Ershad's mistress till his downfall on De

cember 6 Zeenat went into hiding soon after Ershad was placed under house arrest on December 12 But she was later arrested and sent to the central prison along with her husband.

Like Mary, Zeenat also came close to Ershad when she met the deposed President to plead for her husband who was arrested on charges of corruption in 1983. But unlike Mary, she never pressed Ershad for marriage and was satisfied with her role as a playgri Zeenat's only desire was for money and power.

Zeenat reverted to her maiden surname after she started living in a posh rented house as Ershad's mistress. She was made an unofficial chief of the state-owned Bangladesh Chemical Corporation so that the organisation could bear her all expenses. Zeenat even sacked 150 officials of the corporation, including its chairman for not obliging her. Some of the officers challenged their dismissal orders and the cases are still pending in the Dhaka High Court.

The police has now sealed the rooms in the corporation's New Eskaton rest house where Zeenat kept many of the imported luxury items she received as presents from Ershad though she lived in the well appointed house no 37 in the cantonment area, hired by the corporation All the rooms in the house were fitted with im ported airconditioners and had wall-to wall carpeting. Three airconditioned cars were placed at her disposal. She had a hotline connection with Ershad's office in her can tonment residence. The Bangladesh Chemical Corporation reportedly spent laka 10 22 million on Zeenat's personal expenses

Two years ago, Ershad sturred up a diplomatic uproar in Saudi Arabia when he went to Mecca with Zeenat to perform Haj The Saudi government cancelled Zeenat's visa for her un Islamic behaviour there. On most of Ershad's foreign visits Zeenat accompanied him as the President's special guest.

The names of at least another half a dozen women said to be on intimate terms with the former President, have appeared in the Bangladesh press Most of them were wives of high government officials, big businessmen and ravishing IV announcers. The famous Bangladeshi singer, Nashid Kamal, grand daughter of the legendary folk singer, Abbasuddin Ahmed is also described by the media as the fiancee of Ershad.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Awami League chief and daughter of the Father of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahaman, and Begum Khaleda Zia, the BNP chief, both told us in separate interviews that they were determined to expose Ershad's women, if elected to form a government No doubt, the desire for women was in strumental in bringing down Ershad

Leenat, with husband Mosharaf : On the expense account of the state



COVERSTORY

• May 13, 1989 Ms Subrata Mitra buys a can of baby food from the Lansdowne Market Back home, however, the stuff does not look alright to her She mixes it in a glass of cold water and takes a sip her self Her throat begins to burn severely and she is struck by facial paralysis

 V K Datta is admitted to a well known hospital for a leg operation. He is administered an anasthetic. Result an immediate paralysis of the respiratory muscles. lead

ing to a tatal heart attack

• Pritish Mukherjee age 11 was a per feetly healthy boy. That is, until he was touched by thiortho cresil phosphate. Used to adulterate rapeseed oil, the ICP has taken away his power to either walk or use his hands. And made his brother San joy an invalid as well.

hese are not excerpts from a Robin Cook novel And so, when Prithish wished to buy an air-gun with the Rs 500 compensation the then Union minister of state for finance. Aft Panja handed him he did not sound like a teen age adventurer but a symbol of protest against a diseased society a society that could breed such completely unscrupulous adulterators.

For, fakes have flooded the market Name a product, and you are almost sure to find its duplicate probably sold under the same label as the original. And while fake audio head cleaners, watches, sun glasses, bulbs and shoes merely cheat you into paying a lot more from your purse than you should, there are fakes that could prove fatal killing or crippling drugs milk powder for your baby and adulterated edible oil

There is, of course, the usual charade that follows Complaints about a particular spunous product are lodged with the court and filed under the Trade Marks and Merchandise Act (TMMA). The court directs the Enforcement Branch (EB) of the city police to investigate. Shops are raided and often, spurious goods seized. But this does not mean anything. Take the case of Ms Mitra. She had promptly reported against the shop that sold her the adulterated baby food. The shop was raided by the Enforcement Branch officials and a sample of the baby food taken to be tested. Two years later no one seems to know what the report of the analysis said.

On enquiry a senior EB official remarked that there was nothing wrong with the baby food and that Ms Mitra had earlier had attacks of facial paralysis. One will never know now whether or not that particular brand of baby food was spurious. The fact remains that spurious baby food is still very much on the market. The city En forcement Branch recently raided a shop at Burrabazar and seized over 100 packets of baby food produced in Bihar and marketed in Calcutta clandestinely under the

name of a reputed firm

What exactly is packed in an apparently innocent looking tin of baby food or milkpowder sold under the brand name of a reputed and reliable company? Analysts have found that adulteraters of milkpowder first buy tins of genuine baby food They then carefully cut out the tin foil and replace half the product with an inferior quality of talcum powder, wheat or rice dust The tin foil is carefully sealed on again and the product sold to shopkeepers at a lower price. On consumption, these may lead to death or permanent disability But oddly enough, this crime, 'more dangerous than a murder, which most of the time is committed due to a personal vendetta or motive, is not regarded as a cognisable offence in the eye of the law' says Partha Bhattacharya, deputy com missioner, Enforcement Branch And in most cases, the criminals are released within 24 hours on bail. The producers or sellers at the most pay a monetary com



REALOR

The question is becoming increasingly important with unscrupulous traders in search of a quick buck flooding the market with spurious goods of every possible kind. Indeed, it could mean the difference between life and death.

Sanjoy Basak and Tapas
Chakraborty report

pensation but keep on marketing their goods, taking advantage of legal loopholes

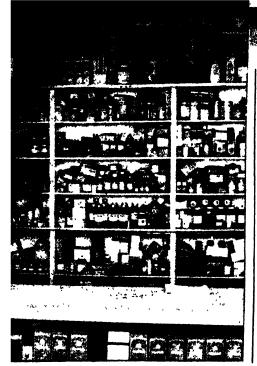
Babies are not the only ones in danger. The chunk of meat you picked up at the market and thought was edible could turn out to be cat's or even rat's flesh. The supply of meat from wholesellers to retaurants often go unchecked. Officials of the Corporation's health department have also found pork infected with microbes that would not respond to antibiotics, and

on consumption led to diseases

Pruts cannot harm, you are sure to say Remember Snow white and the poisoned apple? Researchers have found that apples which look bright red and appetising might lead to a cancerous infection among children. Their colour is not natural but the result of applying an artificial colouring agent manufactured by a multinational company. In agent keeps the apples from dropping off too soon from the tree and improves their colour. And a rotund big orange with spots all over it may not be an orange at all, but a keno, a lookalike of orange that tastes quite different.

Thus, fresh questions have started coming up with every food product marketed today. Their genuineness is challenged by consumers' forums but the plight of innumerable victims do not change. The Behala oil tragedy that crippled hundreds of consumers created a temporary furore with politicians vowing to deal sternly with the spurious oil dealers, but with the passage of time, everything petered out. As an unfortunate resident of Behala puts it cynically, every fake goods dealer has got a strong advocate in the politicians.

Feel like reaching out for a zero-bacterial drink? Last year the central division police torce raided a godown on Prem Chand Boral Street and seized crates of spurious



panies claim to have their safety standards, those which produce fake goods are not careful enough and use dioxin while bleaching the paper packs. Thirty per cent of the fake canned foodstuff are leadsoldered. According to neurologists, the lead contamination endangers the brain. Apart from the fact that lead exposure may be a serious environmental problem. The way out would be to buy food in seamless containers.

What if your child was feeling slightly feverish or had a nagging headache? You were more likely to give him a Paracetamol tablet than consult a doctor immediately. Parents of 100 children in Nigeria did exactly that in September last year. And the ill-fated kids met an untimely death.

Counterfeits again. The pill that promises to cure you may just turn out to be a pill that kills. By consuming it, you do not just run the risk to your life but that of

cold drinks that bore the labels of reputed companies. Chemical analysis found that the drinks contained saccarine and prohibited colouring agents. The state enforcement branch in Howrah town area discovered the existence of a parallel industry producing spurious drinks.

Black Diamond Beverages, who have the franchise for producing Thums Up, Gold Spot and other Parle soft drinks, are well-aware that almost all their products are illegally duplicated. B.D.Samaddar, a senior manager, says that the company appoints private detectives to investigate fake productions. On the basis of the information, the police are tipped off. Following one such police raid, an illegal factory was discovered near the Gem cinema at Entally. The soft drinks manufactured there used to be sold mostly at the Sealdah station.

In most such drinks, harmful colouring agents and substandard candy are used. Samadder feels that consumers should check the metal cap of a soft drinks bottle. Old, used caps are usually hammered to fit again on bottles containing the spurious stuff and the marks of the hammer are easily detectable

Manufacturers of spurious food products flout all existing standards of quality control. Foodstuff packaged in paper or cardboard containers often gets mixed with dioxin, which, food specialists say, is very harmful for health. While reputed com-

carrying on a crippled existence-and what's worse, sometimes severely endangering the child in your womb. In recent years, several mothers have had to face the trauma of delivering permanently deformed or retaided childrenall because they consumed counterfeit drugs. Drug control authorities seized a huge booty of spurious drugs from shops at Burdwan, Suri, Murshidabad and other places. At least one registered pharmaceutical company in Calcutta was caught producing counterfeit drugs. Go beyond West Bengal, the reality is grimmer. In Bihar, dozens of complaints are lodged at the Drug Control Office everyday, alleging that counterfeit drugs are being manufactured by some firms in Calcutta.

ast month, 10 counterfeit varieties of Paracetamol (belonging to the Analgin group of tablets) produced by fictitious companies were recovered from Gaya. Patna and other places in Bihar. Some of these also found their way to Bagri market and were said to contain harmful ingredients. The liquid medicines had poisonous glycol. The Bihar drug bureau was alerted immediately. Complaints from Bihar have also reached Calcutta stating that a firm located at Amherst Street was producing fake medicines. On investigation, however, the address of the firm was found to be fictitious.

The implications of such adulterated duplications of medicines are frightening. The most dreaded adulteration is the mixing of Diethylene Glycol with Propylene Glycol, an ingredient of expectorants and syrups. In a nationwide warning, Dr L.V. Kannan, director of Indian Drug Control, has warned that Diethylene Glycol, mislabelled as Propylene Glycol, may be circulating in India. But that is not the only thing to dread. The Estrogen Progesterone combination drug, EP Forte, though banned in India continues to be produced by fake companies. EPForte was banned in India because it caused severe birth (congenital) defects but the medicine is still in circulation. The officials of Drug Control could not track down the manufacturers of the medicine and what surprised them was the fact that instead of warning their patients about the medicine, quack doctors in the rural areas are encouraging its use. In Suri, the district headquarters of Birbhum, the local Zilla Parishad members were amazed to find that a supply of counterfeit antibiotic medicines had been requisitioned for rural health care. The Zilla Parishad had sought Sulphaguanidine but instead got medicines that were marked SG. These medicines were all from a fake company. The company officials have gone underground.

Some licensed manufacturers too have started to manufacture counterfeit medicines. A Calcutta based company was found producing tetracycline capsules and other fake antibiotics. This was detected when a bulk of medicines supplied to the Sikkim government turned out to be spurious. The officials of Drug Control raided the premises of the company. Two men were arrested and the company's licence for manufacturing the products cancelled. But the company is even now producing those medicines after obtaining a favourable order from court by challenging the raid on technical grounds. The High Court has passed a stay order and the main petition awaits

hearing.

Almost all the established drug manufacturers allege that counterfeit products are being sold under their brand names. Bengal Chemicals have lodged a complaint with the Drug Control authorities that their rectified spirits are being duplicated. Similar complaints have also been received from G.D.Pharmaceuticals, manufacturers of Boroline, among other products. Six months ago, a large quantity of bleaching powder supplied to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation was found spurious. Despite being blacklisted, the culprits continue to not only produce but also supply the fake stuff to the Corporation, thanks to their connections.

Homeopathy is surely a safer choice you

might decide. Unfortunately, no. Deecap, a product prescribed by homeo doctors for various crucial diseases has also got its dangerous duplicate. A Karachi based firm was found delivering huge quantities of Deecap that contained a large amount of steroids, according to the government analyst, P N Verma. These are bound to have strong side effects.

Vitamins are not counterfeit free either. These days one can get tablets tucked into eye catching packs and meant for enhancing a man's virility and sexual power. On investigation, a batch of such tablets were found to contain high doses of opium. The fakes were marketed by a Gwalior based firm. All the counterfeit drugs have deep and dangerous side effects and may even cause a loss of the use of normal organs. The districts too have not been spated these counterfeits.

The detection of contraband medicines and a sustained investigation for unear thing these organised rackets are not easy and neither the police nor the drug control department have the adequate force to discount a crackdown says Dr. N.C. Bagchi director of Drug control, West Bengal Moreover the attempts of the officials are often thwarted by the legal loopholes. As



Raids, but to what end?

an enforcement branch official said they are supposed to investigate only on the basis of a complaint from a buyer and the raids they carry out on their own are not looked upon favourably by the court Moreover the drug lords are quite influential and in most cases they manage to obtain necessary court orders to stall proceedings. What is needed is a summary court for trying the cases, he said

Police investigations and those carried out by the officials of Drug Control have revealed that the manufacturers of fake



Adulterated rapeseed oil deprived this child of the use of her limbs

drugs have an interstate ring. I ast year the police seized two boat loads of medicine powder that were being smuggled in from Bangladesh. The boats were coming to Contai in Midnapore via the Sundarbans.

The drugs are normally unloaded in Midnapore and then find their way to Calcutta by the land route. Similar routes were traced via the Bongion border Police authorities in North 24 Parginarecently seized about of powdered ingredients me infor antibioties. These were to be packed in Calcutta under the brind names of well known pharmaceutical companies. On analysis, the powders were found to have been mixed with chalk dust.

That there was an organised gang behind all the counterfeit medicines came to light during the investigation of a case in the early Fighties Four persons were arrested from the Ganesh Talkie area for allegedly producing fake injections under different brand names. Asit Mukherjee the kingpin confided that he was being aided by some physicians from Gava and Mathura Police later arrested one Dr Nirmal Singh and Shamlal It transpired that the medicines were manufactured in Mathura but packed in Calcutta and distributed from here. I ollowing subsequent statements, the police unearthed a huge number of boxes from a bustee at Cris topher Road. The fake ampules contained some harmful colour and a mixture of glycerine and sugar. But it took years to just try the accused

In 1986, the greatest tragedy of drug diplication struck India when 1.3 persons aged between 10 76 died after consuming

glycerine which contained Glycol Diechylene A commission was set up and legal provisions made stringent but how far has it really helped?

alcutta still continues to be a major producer of take goods. And this does not mean drugs and foodstuffs alone Automobile parts are duplicated too As the deputy commissioner of the city's enforcement branch claims, "almost 70 per cent of the auto-parts sold at Princep Street, (the main auto-parts market in Calcutta) are spurious. These fakes are locally manufactured and the offenders inscribe the brand names of reputed firms on them Almost everything, including electrical equipment, clutches, batteries horns shock absorbers, brake wires and pistons is made with inferior, sham materials and then the brand names of Yanker, Modi India, Lucas, Escorts, Amco or Exide are put on them 'Today if one wishes to buy tyres or tubes, one can only request a dealer to give genuine stuff ' says an EB official. The disadvantage is that there is no way the consumer can know the difference between a genuine and a fake product. One has to trust the dealer. The police claim that most of the accidents that occur are due to the use of fake auto parts "They are so inferior qualitatively that any mishap or even a serious accident can occur any time the official said

From auto parts to timekeepers. Radha bazar in central Calcutta, the city's main centre of watch and clock business is fast acquiring the dubious distinction of being the base of a booming trade in fake HMT and I itan watches, according to police sources. It is learnt that the counterfeiters import parts of inferior quality watches from Hong Kong and fit them into HMT and I itan cases. During a raid organised by Customs, tecently, at least 270 fake HMT watches worth about Rs 11,000 were seized. Some of the fake parts even bore. Soviet marks.

Calcutta also receives a regular flow of fake Seiko and Citizen wrist watches from Bombay These watches are sold particularly at the Fancy and Five Star markets the nerve centres of contraband These fake products normally come cheap cost ing between R۶ 150 and 700. The tactic shopkeepers at these markets adopt is to tell the customers that the watches displayed in the showcases are take and they have only one or two genuine watches within I he gullible customer easily fails for the trap and ends up purchasing a fake watch

Scotch whiskey is another product, spurious duplicates of which help the counterfeiters earn millions. There are two ways of making contraband scotch. The first counterfeiters purchase or ac-



At the drug control bureau's testing laboratory: The tip of the iceberg

quire genuine scotch, carefully break open the seal and punch it with cheap Indian whiskey. For instance, Chivas Regal may be punched with Diplomat or Officers' Choice. All the expensive scotches, say, Dimple Premium, Black Label, Royal Salute. Glenfiddich and even cheaper ones, like Teachers, Red Label, Vat 69, White Horse and others are mostly punched with Diplomat and Officers' Choice. A police official candidly remarked. "These cunterfeiters are so niggardly they would not even punch expensive scotches with cheaper ones or with good or costly Indian whiskey like Peter Scot, Royal Challenge or even McDowell Premium .

The second modus-operand is that the contraband manufacturers acquire empty scotch bottles from the dealers in rags and old household goods, locally called 'kabadiwallas' and fill the bottles with spurious scotch. The kabadiwallas buy these used bottles from houses where scotch is drunk. They pay the seller handsomely for the bottles that have their labels and caps intact. For example an empty bottle of Chivas Regal, with labels intact is priced between Rs 15 and Rs 20. About Rs 5 is paid for the cardboard container. A same bottle without any labels would not fetch more than Rs 1.25. The empty bottles are almost always sold by the servants.

However, in this case, the price of the genuine and spurious scotch varies. While a genuine one litre bottle of Black Label would cost between Rs 550 and Rs 570, the spurious one would be priced at about Rs 450. A genuine Chivas Regal bottle would cost about Rs 800 but a spurious duplicate would range around Rs 500. If

the dealer is not known to the buyer, he might end up purchasing spurious scotch for the price of genuine stuff. As an official remarked, "The best way to get hold of genuine scotch would be through friends among the police. There has never been a record of a policeman or any law enforcing officer who has been cheated into buying spurious liquor."

There is no bar in the city, no matter how reputed it is, that serves genuine liquor. According to a source, the barmen even serve spurious Indian whiskey, made by punching the expensive ones with cheaper stuff and they inevitably mix water in gin and vodka."

However, if adulteration of scotch affects only a few, percentage wise in the country, spurious petroleum products affect millions. Apart from a few petrol pumps in the city, most of the pumps sell spurious petrol, by mixing kerosene and diesel with it and at times even water. This mixture can severely affect the vehicles but sadly, there is nothing one can do. The police has organised several raids to apprehend these dealers, and huge amounts of spurious petroleum products have been seized. But since the section under which these dealers are charged considers this a bailable offence, the adulterators come out of jail and merrily continue their nefarious deeds.

Paking has not spared smaller items of everyday use either. If you thought that the pretty pair of shoes you saw the other day were products of Bata, you could easily be wrong. In 1988, the enforcement branch had seized 1709 shoes from Entally that were being sold under

the famous brand name. The Ray Ban sunglasses sold openly at the Fancy and Five Star markets are nothing but clever fakes again. And until the head of your cassette player gets spoilt you may never know whether you were duped into buying cheap tape encased in empty cassette cartridges of reputed companies.

What about soaps, detergents, talcum powder and perfumes? According to the police, soaps made of sham material and cheap chemicals are packed in wrappers printed to look like carbon copies of original, well-known brands. In April last year, the EB raided a godown at Strand Road and counterfeit soaps, detergents, wrappers and packs with famous brand names were seized, amounting to about Rs 65,000. And talcum powder might just as well contain Frenchchalk. Any of these can cause allergic rashes on the user's skin. But the offence, again, is bailable.

Shopkeepers too are well aware of the existence of fakes. One such shopkeeper of a departmental store at Park Circus. who sells almost everything from baby food to colognes admitted that they do not always sell genuine stuff. He said that to a regular and a good customer "we generally do not sell the spurious goods." He, however, maintained that apart from the perfumes and colognes, which are "at times spurious" all his goods are genuine and that is why he has such tremendous consumer goodwill. According to him, spurious colognes are mainly acquired from Mehta Building in central Calcutta, a nervecentre of contraband goods. The spurious ones are obviously a lot cheaper than the original and apart from a person who is a regular user of colognes, no one will know the difference.

Spurious soaps, shampoos and other cold creams of reputed brands are openly sold in the markets, the shopkeeper said and added that at times the manufacturers of these spurious products come to the shop and ask them if they would be interested in do number ka maal (fakes of original products). The shopkeeper alleged that the major market of these spurious products are mainly in the districts and in the suburbs. "There the people are not regular users of luxury items or cosmetics. Therefore it becomes easy for counterfeiters to sell them the spurious products."

Colognes to auto parts. Baby food to whiskey. Watches to life-saving drugs. Counterfeit, contraband, spurious, fake. "I'll be careful," you may promise yourself. EB officials and drug control authorities may carry out a few more raids. And double-talking politicians profess to come down strongly on the cool counterfeiters. But the Prithishes, Sanjoys, and Subrata Mitras are not really interested.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Velcome back! Sorry to have left you mid-way, dear Geminis. Before you bite off all your nails, here goes: August-September, says my master, Ganesha, make a duo connecting the big, wide, wicked world.

October will be eventful and lucky for matters of the heart, be it a loved one, a place you are fond of, children, hobbies, creative ventures, antiques, or journey

November slants your work sector, December your links, ties, attachments and loyalties. These could be tested a wee bit as there are a few stress planetary formations of sun-Jupiter, and sun-Saturn. The overwork you will do could also be one of the reasons for stress. So, learn to relax, meditate and take it easy. Try Yoga and prayers and light exercise and sports and puzzles and all should be well.

CANCER: From a torrential downpour to a steady trickle is the way money will come to you, dear crabs, so vote not for security, but high venture and a bit of fun. Those who will benefit the most will be the employed Cancerians,

It is absolutely certain that opposition to plans and projects will be less from February 7, 1991, as Saturn, the trouble-maker shifts or moves out of the opposition angle in your solarscope. You will have elbow room to move; you will have space.

1991 is the bottom-line for decisions and values and forming policies. Love in parts and patches will be yours. But the focus seems to be on your work and health. In matters of health, care and caution are absolutely essential. Take no risks. That's the astro way to be happy, says my master, the good Lord Ganesha.

A favourable Venus influence in February helps you to turn on the charm.

March through May the love bug bites you good and proper, as the other planets, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, called as the outer ones, will be galvanised by a powerful formation with the sun.

June to August is money time, hobby time, publicity time.

The best month to fuse pleasure and profit would be November, as your luck will run strong and your influence splendid, far-reaching.

December is a fruit bearing tree. Your efforts will be amply rewarded.

LEO: Roses, roses, most of the way, thanks to Jupiter whirling and swirling in your angle of creativity, recreation, hobbies, leisure and pleasure, children and grandchildren, romance and beauty, jour-

ney and ceremony. But there is a thorn, too. Saturn in your opposition angle leads to divorce, or a natural separation, legal clashes, differences of opinion, and obviously, pain. Let me, however, clarify, that, these readings are based only on your solarscope and not on your individual horoscope. So, please do not take it as gospel truth. Nothing ever is absolutely final and irrevocable.

January is for a bout of sustained hard work, a possible trip, a probable job-hop, if you have not changed one lately. Safeguard your health. Pets could give you a hard time and so could colleagues and subordinated, if you are very rigid and opinionated. Be flexible is the astro advice. From February 7, Saturn. Western astrology, enters your opposition angle.

In March also, Mars has a good word

Bejan Daruwalla continues with his

predictions for the year ahead

for you, resulting in loans, funds investments, buying and selling, financial negotiations and transactions. But once again health could be the culprit which could slow you down. Most Leons must have had a chop and change in their work area the last $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.

They will finally settle down in April. April will be vital for journey, collaborations, marriage, engagement, romance.

Till September 12, you will certainly be under the spell of events and happenings of August. From September 13, Jupiter slides into your money slot, and therefore, money, honey and a lot of gravy, for you! The money span will last till October 10, 1992, roughly.

October helps you to get going, as friends work hard for you,

December finds you working hard, enjoying well, roaring away to glory! I can hear your free and frank laughter, dear Leons, as you are reading this piece.

VIRGO: It would be best to take the long shot now, be it job, journey, collaborations, moving, romance, friendships, socialising, decoration and renovation or just having fun. You will be turning the searchlight within, meditating, asking important questions such as where you are heading, the meaning of life, different media of communication, studying rare and unusual subjects, reading and writing a lot, and in some cases, taking a complete 180 degree turn in your life.

Do not be itchy and touchy about details. Otherwise, you will cut yourself out of a gold mine. Give your best shot in January, because the sun is in fine formation with Mars, enabling you to overcome hurdles and opposition, and be the victor.

March to June helps you to link on a personal or professional basis, get work done, be on the lookout for opportunities to advance or consolidate.

July to mid-September. specially July, is for gains and gaiety.

September 13, 1991 to October 10, 1992, you will be on a winning wicket, thanks to Jupiter, transiting your sign. Western astrology.

November in many ways marks a turn for the better for Virgoans as they will fan out splendidly to people, places, and thus win the game. Time they did, too! Jupiter and sun will be in a good formation, prompting you to take the initiative.

November-December will be travel time. Perhaps a house move, a home away from home, renovation and decoration, a shift, a transfer is indicated.

LIBRA: Game, set and match, Librans! 1991 is YOUR year! You will have the Midas touch. Lady Luck rides with you. Ganesha, my master, gives the go signal. I am sure, dear Librans, you read me loud and clear.

"A friend is one who knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts who you've become and still, gently invites you to grow." Friendship, love, children, loans, funds, promotion, perks, pelf, status, prestige, awards and rewards, all in one fell swoop, could be yours, very specially, if your personal horoscope, is as powerful as the solar-scope. Even if it isn't, not to worry. Many happy events will happen to you, the good things, as the commercial say.

February, June, August, October and December will be the outstanding months of the year. From February 7, Saturn changes signs. Saturn will be in your 5th angle of joy and illumination till January 28, 1994. This 3-year-spell should be one of the most favourable and fantastic span of your life. It could well be as wonderful as Walt Disney's Fantasia. October stimulates you mentally, physically, emo-

tionally, spiritually and you will have to take some hard important decisions—as a rule Librans do not enjoy this—and thus prepare to zoom to the top in December, which is a friendly, hopeful, exceptionally communicative month for Librans

Just for your information, dear Librans, what you sow or do or even think now, will have a fine culmination around 1992-1993 Push with all you have in 1991, is, in brief, the advice of my Master, Ganesha Got it?

SCORPIO: Power may or may not come out of the barrel of a gun, but power will come to you, extraordinary, terrific power, thanks to Jupiter swishing away in your angle or house of prestige position, status, honour, glory and fame. It is up to you to use it wisely and well Expect promotion and rewards, dear Scorpios. However, in your personal or domestic life, tensions and perhaps, trials, can be anticipated, as, Saturn will teach you the lesson of patience and sympathy. A separation or even death in the family is a possibility in the next two-and-and a-half years, the span it takes for Saturn to be in a sign.

In 1991, says my master, Ganesha, your power months will be January, April, June, August (power struggie possible), September and November

SAGITTARIUS: The quality you need and the price you want, as the Americans say, will both be vours! Cheers! 1991 is for a terrific burst of power, pelf, pomp and progress Tourney, schölastics, im port-export research, ceremonies collaborations, the social whirligg, a new high in popularity and charity await you with wide, open, arms! Hug it! Women particularly will be at their beautiful, brilliant best!

January is for finance and family and possibly promises and promissory notes, instruments of negotiation and mortgage, and a touch of welcome love. From February 7, Saturn enters your 3rd slot of valour, enterprise, communication, neigh bours and the arts, science and electronics too—therefore you will start on a winning note. While March is for home and proper to and a home away from home, April is for the goodies of life, children included. May could pose health problems and a change in the nature and scope of your work.

June is both for mating and checkmating kisses and kicks, and you will give as good as you get, so have fun will survive July-August are the duo for housing, property, ill-health to parents and in-laws, but very probably, August will be inspirational and you will make the right moves September helps you to zoom to the top, and therefore by December, you should be well on your way to honours and confidence October is for alliances, November for journey, expenses and introspection

CAPRICORN: The strands in 1991 will be finance, augmentation of income, loans, investments, transfer, shifts, moving of house or office, more work, less tensions, comparatively at least, and therefore, by October, you should be working hard but enjoying more, a perfect mix-n-match of profit-cum-pleasure so to say You end the year in a blaze of glory and publicity as, Jupiter changes signs, Western astrology on September 13

January, your birth month, helps you to sort things and matters out, very specially on the personal level. On February 7, Saturn which was in your sign these last two-and a-half years, Western astrology, finally moves out, giving you freedom and fearlessness, two attributes, which, make for inner peace.

As said in the beginning from Septem ber, your period in the sun really starts. Therefore by November Jupiter will have picked up pace and momentum and thus be ready to give you the plums and pudding, which, make life so thrilling and sweet. In the words of Folstov. Life is sweet brother, who would wish to die? December finds you stock taking, making

While January will be expensive and perhaps propel you into a trip, a journey and a moving. February finds you asserting your individuality, getting on with life and living and taking exceptionally important decisions. Right up to April-end, decisions and new avenues (obviously they go together) will make a team for you March through May is tough and a rough one.

June to October is for wedding bells, alliances at every level and layer, collaborations and bonds stronger than steel, June and August, specially so Mid September Jupiter steps into your angle of finance and service. It will stay put there till October 10, 1992, therefore investments, trading funds and loans, buying and selling will be of paramount import ance. The duo of sun-Mars in October helps you to get things done. October also favours, journey.

PISCES: Gird up your loins, take a deep breath or two, and on with the show! Now is the time to show the world how good and great you really are and believe me, you are mighty! Jupiter whirls away in

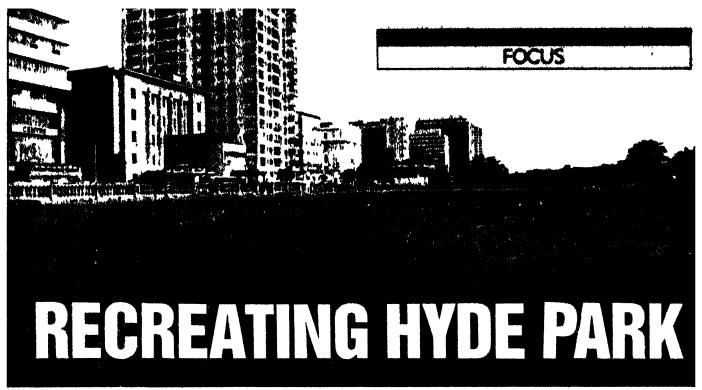


a balance sheet of life itself and you will find yourself on the side of credit and a thumping balance in your favour 1992 is even better, so get to 1991 with rightful hope and plenty of optimism

AQUARIUS: True you have been under pressures and wormes, perhaps even a separation with a loved one family friend or household member, elders, boss and so on True also that 1991 is the year of marciage engagement, live-in, business alliances, journey, numerous trips probably with a stop-over, heavy expenses slight ill health, and a change in your entire lifestyle This process of change will last for nearly three years. It is necessary. It is also inevitable. It will help you to evolve, grow, mature and ripen. Accept it gracefully and you will be wise Fight it, and you will be in the soup In other words, adjustments and changes are destined, do what you will That does not mean that all depends upon fate. It only means, do the best you can, plan well, be considerate and objective (Aquarians can be so, despite their eccentricities) and all should be well. Above all, do not vaculate and please avoid worrying over things you have no control

your angle of work and labour and intelligence. The outer planets, Neptune Uranus are in your angle of friendships and inspiration. Pluto is in the slot of good fortune and journey, therefore go all out for the kill. It is now or never! Got it, dear Pisceans? Also as a big bonus a cash back as the Americans say, September onwards it will be love time, marriage time, romance time and poetry time. Wine and roses are yours!

From mid September Jupiter changes signs, inducing, persuading compelling you to have a permanent tie, be it business marriage, or purely platonic But relationships will hold the key, September onwards, so get set for that. October is clearly for finances and moving and this trend is so dominant that it will hold almost complete sway till October 1992 You will overhaul your objectives, give up dead wood, separate the grain from the chaff, and that's how it should be Time for that has arrived and time, the conspirator, never waits. Let me sum it up. 1991 is for hard work, commensurate rewards, expenses, and from September, alliances and finances and movement, will into 1992. Ganesha gives the nod¹ ■



Two centuries ago, the British forbade any permanent construction on the Maidan so that the formidable cannons on the ramparts of Fort Wilham had a clear line of fire Today, Calcuttans flock to the Maidan, scarred and scabrous in places like a chain smoker's lungs, to breathe fresh air Even today, the Maidan, says Geoffery Moorhouse in Calcutta is a wide open space, "a dangerous place for anyone with a touch of agoraphobia"

But development has nibbled at the Maidan's edges. The B.C. Roy Market, a huddle of dingy shops and snaking muddy bylanes, was once a patch of pristine verdure. Another chunk of green became the Esplanade bus terminus, a dirt encrusted, oil stained concrete quadrangle. The Metro Railway's godowns have sprouted and the second Hooghly Bridge taken its pound of flesh. A sunny counterpoint to the surly concrete surrounding it, the Maidan still reflects the near anarchic exhiberance of Calcuttans.

All that may change soon If the honourable Emily Eden compared the Maidan to Regent's Park, London, Rotary plans to prettify the Maidan into another Hyde Park "We want the entire Maidan to be like another Hyde Park There will be pools, pathways cutting through the green, even public conveniences," says Subimal Ghosh, the eminent architect and governor of Rotary International District 329.

"If the Army gives permission, work will begin in June this year and continue till 1994. The total budget is about Rs 7 crores. Besides, there will be recurring expenditure to be borne by the Rotarians. We will have to have maalis to tend the flower beds and mistures to keep the wrought-iron railings in good repair,

Probably as a counterpoint to the political rallies organised by at the Brigade Parade Ground and around Shahid Minar, Ghosh hopes that private oratory will take root in the Maidan. Like the Hyde Park soapbox, there will be a podium and speeches will be encouraged.

While plans for giving the Maidan a facelift are still at the drawing board stage, Rotarians have begun their greening of Calcutta campaign Over 500 trees have been planted alongside the soot-stained streets of central Calcutta despite delays in getting permission from the Calcutta

Yes, right here, at the Maidan. But that is only one of Rotary Club's various plans to protect the environment

Corporation. And in the districts, especially in Hooghly, Midnapore and Nadia, Rotarians have planted over 25,000 trees.

Beautifying the Maidan is only one of Rotary's magnificent obsessions. Other concerns include shrinking ground water resources, air pollution and the new plague: the growing incidence of drug abuse.

With the Hooghly choked by raw sewage and industrial sludge, more and more people, huddling in the city's foetid slums or in the new concrete matchboxes that defile Calcutta's skyline, are turning to deep tubewells, siphoning off groundwater

resources before they can be replenished. The solution, believe Rotarians, is "rainwater harvesting," fears of mildly acidic rain because of sulphur dioxide emissions from the city's smokestacks nothwithstanding "It is time to adopt ponds. All we have to do is clean them, fence them off and plant trees around them. Rainwater is the purest source of natural water And if people in Bikaner and Bombay can live on rainwater, why can't we?" asks Ghosh

Worned about the sulphurous clouds that shroud the city on wintery evenings, Rotarians are urging people to reduce automobile emissions. Like charity, checks begin at home and 2,400 Rotarians have been asked to ensure that their cars don't pump acrid fumes into the air. 'But I cannot say whether all our members have taken the necessary measures as yet," says Ghosh.

For the city's lakh-and-a-half hardcore heroin users (probably a conservative estimate), Rotarians offer a semblance of hope. Rotary has begun a drug addict adoption programme which helps to pay for the cost of treatment in a rehabilitation centre. Even though doctors associated with Rotary offer free medical checkups, the treatment costs about Rs 2,000 on an average. About 25 patients have been treated so far

far.

Members of Rotary-329, mostly eminent men in shiny business suits, have a social mission. They organise blood donation and eye-operation camps, they educate and they mobilise. Rotarians have begun to identify themselves as "guardians of the environment". And Calcutta, scene of eternal squalor and urban decay, needs its share of guardians.

Srinjoy Chowdhury

Bengali Vegetable Curry

There are so many vegetable curries in India that it is almost impossible to select a representative one. The one that has found universal favour in our homes is the Bengali version.

Any vegetables may be used here, except peas and potatoes The ones recommended are turnips, carrots, cabbage, white radish, knol khol and pumpkin or any marrow, in equal proportions

Serve 4-5

Cooking Time 25-30 minutes

Method

Dice the vegetables to about the same size, cutting them into various shapes

Take a saucepan and bring oil to smok ing and add the singe-firy masala. When the splittering stops, add the follow up masala and stir fry for a few minutes. Now add the vegetables and stir fry for 5 minutes till all the vegetables have been properly coated with oil and partially cooked.

Add the during-cooking masala and stir fry for another minute or so. Add water and simmer for 15 minutes or till vegetables are done. The dish should be a semiliquid by now.

When ready transfer to a serving dish Sprinkle the finishing masala, with grated coconut first and then coarsely pounded hore.

Finally sprinkle the garnish masala with the mustard oil coming last

Serve with fluffy boiled rice or puri or any Indian fried bread

Note Bon or van is made from vanous fermented lentils, pasted and sun dried They come in the shape of irregular balls Preference for flavour is the van made from urad lentil. The best flavour is when you saute fry them first and then coarsely pound them for sprinkling on top of the dish. If not available, deep fry 2½ oz/75 g/1/3 cup split chick pea (chane ki dal) till it is crisp and sprinkle on top.

British Met		Ingredients	American		
2½ b	1 kg	vegetables	2½ lb		
5 fl oz (1 cup)	150 ml	cooking oil	t cup		
1 pt (2 cups)	300 mi	water	1½ cups		
		singe-fry masala	-		
1 tsp	3 g	cumin, whole	1 tsp		
½ tsp	1 25 g	cumin powder	½ tsp		
½ tsp	1 g	conander powder	½ tsp		
1 tsp	3 g	mustard powder	1 tsp		
1/2 tsp	2 g	fenugreek seed, whole	½ tsp		
1 tsp	2 g	chilli powder	1 tsp		
1 tbsp	10 g	turmeric powder	1 tbsp		
	1	ioliow-up masala			
1 tsp	5 g	ginger paste	1 tsp		
4	4	green chillies, slit lengthwise	4		
2 tsps	10 g	salt, to taste	2 tsps		
	dur	ing-cooking masala			
i"	2 5 cm	cinnamon (1 g)			
4	4	cardamoms, large brown	4		
2 tbsps	20 g	poppy seed, roasted & ground	2 tbsps		
		finishing masala			
2 oz	50 g	coconut, freshly grated	i cnb		
4	4	bori (vari)	4		
	-	garnish masala			
1 tsp	2 75 g	garam masala	1 tsp		



You've come a l-o-n-g way, baby!

That better gift could there be for the ladies of Calcutta in its tercentenary year but an exclusive place of their own, where the prerogative is theirs. Entirely.

Opened on December 29 at the penthouse of The Conclave, the city's only business club, Prima Donna is the only of its kind in the eastern region. The brainchild of Harsh Neotia, the man behind The Conclave, the idea of opening the Prima Donna was mainly to provide "an

exclusive ambience for the woman of today," says Neotia."This is not just a place where one can have a meal; it will give expression to our cultural interests and creative urges as we propose to organise

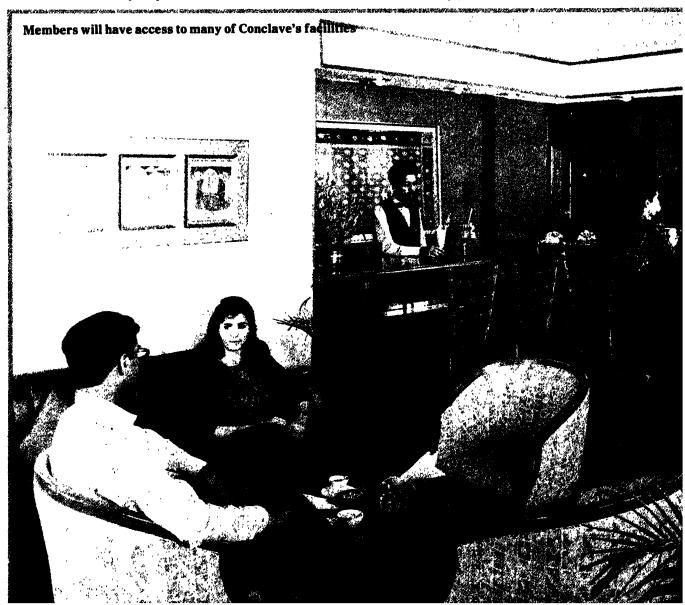
Nandita Chaudhuri on

Calcutta's first ladies' club

interesting events every year. It is here that every woman will be made to feel like

a prima donna."

"A place where the woman is in a class of her own," adds Veena Kichlu, the administrative officer. "Not merely the high profile executive, but also the ordinary housewife, can come and feel special. All we insist is that a woman must be an achiever in some sense or the other—be she a housewife or a highly successful professional. The Prima Donna will be a





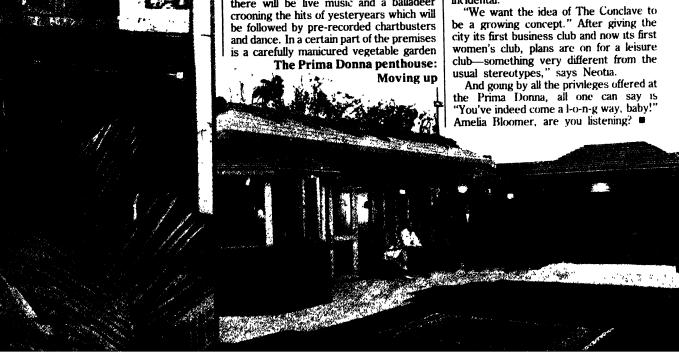
place where the woman will file away her worries and stress in her bottom drawer and just relax to some good food and entertainment."

This rooftop rendezvous has a plush decor with an exclusive lounge-cum-bar and a landscaped terrace garden with a small performance stage and outdoor seating arrangements for selective entertainment. Among the many cultural events scheduled is a rendition of Baag Bhairav by Pt Bhimsen Joshi at five in the morning on the rooftop, evoking the dawn, during the second week of January. Also on the cards is a recital of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata by a world renowned pianist on a full moon night at the Prima Donna. And from time to time there will be many more of such interesting and unique cultural events to entertain the city's prima donnas, though most of the performers will be predominantly male! Wonder what Germaine Greer would have to say to that?

The Prima Donna is no mere 'retreat' but on the contrary, a 'rendezvous', where women will come mainly to have fun and men are also encouraged to partake in the fun. But one little hitch. A man can only be signed in by a lady member. So watch out gentlemen, you'd better treat your womenfolk right if you want to wine and dine at the Prima Donna. Or else, you can be with your billiards and boys while your women have a whale of a time in the evenings.

For the facilities at the club are many. Every evening between 7.30 to 9.30 pm there will be live music and a balladeer from where the members and their guests can pick up vegetables of their choice which would then be instantly cooked and served to them at the rustic restaurant, The Village. The cuisine has been conceived as an exclusive assortment of 'befores' and 'afters' on the lines of nouvelle cuisine, where small portions of exquisite garnishings representing a wide variety of both vegetarian and nonvegetarian dishes will be served with finesse and style. "This is because we believe here that food being what it is should promote more food for thought. As they say, it is over the best cusine and the best liquor that the best relationships are made," says Neotia. Apart from these, members of Prima Donna will be entitled to use the well-stocked library of The Conclave, their continental restaurant, and their exclusive bakery and confectionary. And for the busy executive, dinner-time shopping can be done at the Aesthetics while the more creative ladies can exhibit their creations at The Gallery. And to top it all, on the birthday of a lady member, the management will open a bottle of champagne for her and her guests. This will be on the house!

According to Ms Kichlu, "The membership is very selective and strictly by invitation only. Though we will not differentiate, we are primarily inviting ladies who have achieved some success and prominence in their respective fields---be it the arts, the entertainment, business, medicine, law and various other professions. This is to ensure that it does not degenerate into another kitty club merely. As the idea basically stems out of a creative urge rather than a business proposition, question of economic viability is incidental.



STREET

The Indian Museum is the oldest museum in India dating back to the 19th century when the Asiatic Society felt the need to establish a museum in Calcutta Explorations and surveys conducted to investigate the economic potential of the Indian subcontinent led to the collection of items of mineralogical, botanical and zoological value Artifacts of archaeological significance were also documented, and in sum, an amazing

Worship of Bodhi Tree, pillar from the Bharhut Stupa, 2nd century BC, Indian Museum

collection had been assembled that had to be properly catalogued and preserved

In 1875 the building of the Indian Museum, designed by Walter L B Gran ville, was ready for occupation Granville was the architect of several other famous Calcutta buildings such as the University, the Senate House (which sadly has been pulled down), the Post Office, and the impressive edifice of the High Court The Indian Museum, facing Chowringee is

Extracted from An Illustrated Guide to Museums of India by Shobita Punja photography by Jean Louis Nou published by The Guidebook Company Ltd Hong Kong 1990 built in two storeys around a central open quadrangle, with corridors and verandas supported by huge Ionic columns

The building is a splendid solid construction of the Victorian era in India, but is very inappropriate as a museum. As you enter from the main street to your left is the **mineralogy gallery**. This gallery though dusty and poorly layed out, has a very extensive collection of minerals from all parts of India. It provides a fascinating

on a guided tour of the Indian Museum, the oldest in the country, which houses some very rare exhibits

Photographs: Jean-Louis Nou

display of the diversity of India's mineral wealth. Further down this gallery is the renovated anthropology section, and up the stairs is a gallery with rather old fashioned dioramas of various tribes of India. The baskets and other craft products on display are specimens of artistic techniques that are under threat of extinction today.

ile a hashut been

To the right of the main entrance is the Archaeological Section and its first room contains an invaluable collection of stone railings with sculptures of the second century BC from a Buddhist religious site at Bharhut in Madhya Pradesh

The story of how they came to the Indian Museum is quite interesting and had been narrated in Randhawas' book, Indian Sculpture, 1985 General Alexander Cunningham, who was responsible for many archaeological finds, discovered the ruins of the Bharhut Stupa in 1873. The solid mound of the Buddhist stupa had been surrounded by a huge stone railing and gateways bearing relief panels which Cunningham found scattered in a ruined state around the site. He decided to transport the remaining sculptured railings to Calcutta and have them installed in the Indian Museum Professor Childers in England, hearing of this plan, wrote. It is impossible to read General Cunningham's most interesting account of these sculptures without a sigh of regret that they should be so far beyond the reach of our inspec tion' Childers was keen to have the Bharhut sculptures in the British Museum in London He continues 'I hear of a proposal to remove them from Bharhut The scheme carries with it a certain aroma

PAST



TIMES



of vandalism (fancy carting away Stonehenge).' Cunningham, however, knew that he was saving the sculptures since much of the ancient stupa had already been taken away by the local villagers for building purposes. Today it is well worth a visit to Calcutta, just to see this gallery of early Buddhist sculpture and to gain an insight into a philosophy of life still maintained in contemporary India despite the great antiquity of its roots.

The sculptures from Bharhut are indeed amazing. The railings stand nearly three metres (9 ft) high. This stone fencing, in imitation of an older wooden construction. has upright posts linked together by horizontal beams, and a massive curved railing stone on the top. The railings, consisting of vertical posts and horizontal crossbars. are decorated with almost life-sized female and male figures that stand like guardians of the stupa, and at regular intervals there are panels and circular medallions carved out in low relief. Some of these depict episodes and stories from the Jataka tales that describe previous incarnations of the Buddha. In every incarnation, Buddha led an exemplary life of service and kindness, whether he appeared in the form of a deer, of the self-sacrificing monkey or any other

Another of the many narrative panels tells the story of the monkey incarnation of Buddha, Mahakapi Jataka. On a circular relief panel is a forest scene through which there flows a stream. On one bank of the stream, monkeys are shown clambering up a tree, and crossing to the opposite bank across a monkey bridge. The monkey who endangers his own life by creating a bridge for his companions is an incarnation of Buddha and this represents his ideals. It was through animal tales and parables like these that devotees were able to understand the teachings and principles of Buddhism, Spiritual inspiration, through compassion for animals and all other living creatures, was the objective of these didactic sculptures.

Following the railing on the right, on the outer side past the gateway is a depiction in a relief panel of a group of monkeys trapping an elephant. On the parallel railing on the left-hand side from the entrance to the gallery is depicted the amusing episode of a group of monkeys extracting a tooth from a tall, and burly, man. The monkeys have tied the troublesome tooth by a long cord to an elephant, while one monkey sits poised to give the tail of the elephant a good hard bite, so that it will charge with pain and the tooth thus be extracted!

◄ Yakshi (detail), pillar from the Bharhut Stupa, 2nd century BC, Indian Museum

There is no representation of the Buddha in human form in the sculptures of Bharhut, as they were executed during Buddhism's Hinayana phase when only symbolic representations of Buddha were depicted in stone sculpture. The symbol most commonly appearing is that of the pipal tree, under which the Buddha attained enlightenment. The tree is shown in sculpture surrounded by a fence, or platform, and being worshipped with flowers and garlands. There are also several circular lotus medallions, some with faces carved in the centre. These shallow-relief decorations are unique as they are carved in many levels and the varying depths create a subtle illusion of

Woman gazing at herself in the mirror, Chandella period, 11th century, Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, Indian Museum



space. The lotus, employed in Buddhist art and later in Hindu sculpture, is a symbol of purity and signifies the miraculous birth of a holy or great person, whose example stands distinct from the rest of humanity.

On the railings there are also several female figures, some almost life-size, in various poses-holding a musical instrument, looking in a mirror, holding the branch of a tree. They are dressed in a simple loin cloth, and wear exquisitely designed jewellery in their hair and around neck, waist and arms. Such silver jewellery is still worn by women of various communities in India. A sculpture of a young girl holding a branch of a tree has been interpreted as a fertility symbol, and it is easy to see why. The tree behind her, with flowers and buds ready to burst into bloom reconfirms an ancient tradition that was absorbed into Buddhist belief of paying homage to trees and the spirits who dwell in them and acknowledging their close relationship with human beings.

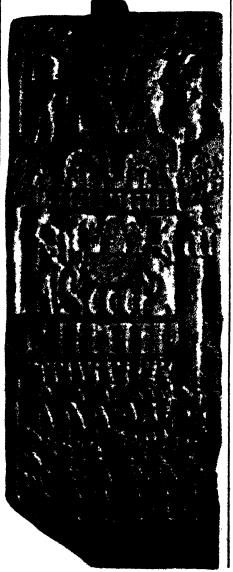
This entire gallery of early Buddhist sculptures is full of life, vitality and humour, attributes not usually associated with religion, particularly Buddhism, by most people. They form a very important link in the chain of development of Indian sculpture. For centuries Buddhist and Hindu religious buildings were adorned with didactic sculptures that taught pilgrims the myths and legends associated with the gods. A touch of humour, some reflection of contemporary life, and the use of natural motifs formed part of this tradition. A big thank you must be whispered to General Cunningham for rescuing the Bharhut sculptures back in 1873. Gandhara Sculptures

Further down, in the next gallery, are sculptures from Gandhara. This collection is the finest in India, and is only equalled by the one in the Lahore Museum in Pakistan. The northwestern region of India, and parts of what are now Pakistan and Afghanistan came to be known as Gandhara in the early centuries of the Christian era. This area came under the influence of the Greeks after Alexander's conquest, and later, when trade links with the Roman Empire were strengthened. Roman influence. In Gandhara, princely states and cities were established which flourished with increasing commerce and trade. A famous Buddhist university of the times, Taxila, attracted Buddhist scholars from China and other parts of the Far East, and from Asia generally. Excavations at Taxila and neighbouring sites have revealed a wealth of stupas, sculptural remains, coins and artifacts, each with its distinctive Greek or Roman influence.

Amongst art historians a great controversy developed some years ago on whether it was the Graeco-Roman influ-

ence that created the first 'human' images of the Buddha. Research today confirms that sculptures of the Buddha evolved in many parts of India at approximately the same time as the Gandhara images were being made. Figurines in wood, terracotta. stone and even metal had been modelled by Indian artists for centuries, and this was not their first attempt at creating figurative sculptures. What challenged the artist at the onset of the Mahayana (Buddhism) period was the task of evolving an image of the Buddha that would reflect the goodness and purity of Buddha's mind in a meditative mood. The early sculptures show evidence of the artist's experimentation with the facial expression, clothing and stance of the

Adoration of the Bodhi Tree, pillar from the Bharhut Stupa, 2nd century BC, Indian Museum





Krishna and Radha celebrating Holi,

Buddha, often with a smile accidentally appearing on the Buddha's serene face.

Some of the sculptures in this gallery were donated by General Cunningham and belong to the Mahayana period of Buddhism when it was thus found acceptable to present the Buddha in human form. There are small votive stupas which would have been donated to the holy shrine as offerings by devotees. From such votive objects, which were often inscribed, it was possible for historians to piece together information on the nature of the patrons of Buddhism. It was found that among the targe mercantile community many had become followers of this new faith, and their wealth supported its growth and dissemination to different parts of Asia. As stupas mushroomed along trade routes, the original Indian hemispherical stupa became taller and more elongated, till it assumed the form of the towering pinnacles still seen in the Far East.

The Numismatic Gallery The museum has attempted to display its excellent coin collection in chronological sequence, beginning with the punchmarked coins of the fifth century BC to AD second century. There are Greek and Arab coins that provide historical evidence of trading contact with the Indian subcontinent centuries ago. The gold Gupta coins are especially beautiful, with tiny reliefs of kings, horses and lions faithfully depicted despite the small workable surfaces of the coins. Years ago the excavation of hordes of gold coins led historians to describe the Gupta period as a 'golden age'. The value of its currency is of course indicative of the relative prosperity of a particular period in history.

The Mughals, who ruled North India from the 16th century until the British



ıngra, late 18th century, Indian Museum

took over, produced in their early years of glory magnificent coins in gold and silver. On display are coins with zodiac signs and calligraphic designs. The scale of the coin did not reduce the power of its visual appeal, and in these examples it is possible to see the artist's skill in composition of the design, in his selection of the details to be represented and in creating the final effect.

There are very few museums in India where the coin collection is so well presented.

Indian Sculpture of Different Regions

From the Gandhara Gallery there is a door that leads into a large hall that runs along the side of the open courtyard of the museum building. This gallery has been divided into small niches with samples of sculptures from different regions, periods, styles and schools of Indian art. An attempt has been made to group sculptures of one style together in one niche, beginning with the earliest examples. However, it is impossible to examine all of them in a single visit. In the Buddhist section there is one group of long white marble panels of sculptures obtained from the now ruined stupa at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh. One of these panels depicts the miraculous birth of the Buddha. The legend records that Buddha's mother had a dream in which there appeared a white elephant, this dream symbol being interpreted as a portend of the birth of a child that would be a 'gift to mankind'. Maya, the Buddha's mother, is shown sleeping in one section of the long panel, her attendants also asleep beside her, while a small baby elephant hovers above her in the top right corner, in what can only be a portrayal of her dream.

A representative collection of Hindu sculptures from various regions is displayed in this gallery, covering every major school of the different historical periods. Amongst them the Bengal style of the Pala period, around the eighth to the 12th centuries, is important and easy to identify; shiny black stone was used and a famous example of this style is a sculpture of a Mother and Child Lying on a Red.

There are some excellent examples of sculptures from the temples of Khaturaho in Madhya Pradesh, in this gallery. These once adorned temple walls, often high up, in unreachable places. Here they are available for study at close range. The sculptures of Khajuraho belong to the 10th to 12th centuries. For years art historians have tried to explain why the Khaiuraho temples displayed so many sculptures of lovers and the art of love-making. Whatever the theory, love is a universal theme in all Indian art, whether it is sculpture, painting, poetry, music or dance. Though there are only a few sculptures from Khajuraho in this museum, it is a pleasure to study such fine examples of images that are both sensuous and charming.

The Lady Writing a Love Letter (Khajuraho, 11th century) has her back to you, with her head turned so that you just see her rather naughty smile. The lady lover seems uncomfortably hot, and she has let her fine clothing fall from her shoulder (or perhaps the artist has lowered the drapery), so that you can view her exposed armpit where tell-tale nail marks have been left by her lover. Is she writing a love-letter, and remembering the night before?

There are also some sculptures from Java and Cambodia in this gallery. Indian art and religion travelled with traders and merchants to neighbouring countries, and it is interesting to see how Indian influences were adapted.

The Zoological Section

The galleries on the first floor contain specimens of unbelievable size and quantity—of animals, fish and birds collected during British expeditions in the Indian subcontinent. The layout of the display is appalling, though the collection is quite valuable. For the visitor keen on wildlife in India, these galleries can serve as an introduction. Sadly, the vibrant colours of the birds' feathers have faded and the labels fail to tell you where these birds can be found in India. For such information there are some excellent books available.

On the first floor, near the Egyptian room and the elevator landing is a passage that leads to the Art Gallery. Here, though again poorly displayed, is a fine collection of Indian textiles—fine reed mats of Bengal, printed fabrics of Rajas-

than, shawls with the woven and embroidered designs that made Kashmir so famous, brocades from Banaras and much else besides.

Down the hall is a clutter of decorative art objects in wood and metal, that can be broadly classified as kitsch.

The Nahar Gallery of Oriental Art is a small room which has some good examples of Persian miniatures of the 17th century, of the Mughal School of painting,



Standing Yakshi with figures in the balcony, pillar from stupa, 2nd century, Mathura, Indian Museum

including examples from the Akbar period. It is interesting to see in these paintings the kinds of clothes and jewellery that were worn by those emperors who built their royal capitals in Delhi and Agra, and then to walk back through the textile gallery to get a first-hand impression of the fabrics represented in the paintings of the different periods.

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Baaghi: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442)---4 shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Nagma are the lead pair. The film is directed by Deepak Shivdasani and the music is by Anand Milind.

• Bahaar Aane Tak: New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147) 4 shows.

A musical romance, starring Rupa Ganguly, Sumeet Saigal, Navin Nischal, Tariq Shah and Moon Moon Sen. The film is directed by Tariq Shah and the music is by Rajesh Roshan.

• Lani Paree: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680)—4 shows.

Directed by Hanif Chhipa and with music by Nadeem Shravan, the lead cast comprises Aditya Panchol, Jahnawi, Guishan Grover and Javed Jaffri.

• Shiva: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917)—11.45, 2.45, 5.45, 8.45; Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Basusree (S.P. Mukherge Road; 484808)—4 shows.

A film by Ramgopal Varma, starring Nagarjuna as Shava Others co-starring are Amala, Raghuvaran, Paresh Rawal and Girija Shankar, with Rohi Hattangady, Goga Kapoor, Dilip Dhawan Bina Banerii and Chandrasekhar in special appearances. The music is by llaiyaraaja.

• State Rowdy: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266),



Tariq Shah and Rupa Ganguly in Bahaar Aane Tak

Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Jagat (APC Road; 365108), Malancha (Regent Park), Ragini (Beliaghata Main Road; 363264).

Chiranjeevi and Bhanupriya are

the lead pair in this film, directed by B. Gopal. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• Thanedaar: Elite (S.N. Banerjec Road; 241383), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666). Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street: 554033)-- 4 shows.

Directed by Ray Sippy, the film stars Jeetendra, Jaya Prada, Sunjay Dutt and Madhuri Dixit. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

Bengali Films

• Abhimanyu: Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567) -- 3 shows; Prachi (AJC Bose Road; 271282)-- 2, 5, 7.45.

The maiden directorial venture of Biplab Chatterjee who also stars along with Soumitra Chatterjee, Satabdi Roy, Deepankar De, Rabi Ghose, Prabhat Roy, Sanghamitra Bancrjee, Dilip Roy, Bimal Dev and Sunil Mukherjee. The music is by Mrinal Bancrjee.

• Mahaajan: Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)---2.45, 5.30, 8.15.

An Anjan Choudhury film, starring Utpal Dutt, Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Joy



7 DAYS

Banerjee, Chumki Choudhury and Tapas Paul. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• Pyar Ka Devta: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138) Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 365108), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue: 464440), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Malancha (Regent Park).

Directed by K. Bapaiah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Madhuri Dixit, Rupa Ganguly, Shakti Kapoor, Moushumi Chat-terjee and Kader Khan.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090),

Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757). Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 552932), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road; 355059), Madhuban (Regent Park).

A love story interspersed with actions, the film stars Salman Khan and debutante Chandni. Others costarring are newfind Kanchan, Puneet Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Danny and Pran. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh-Kishor.

Special Events

13 January: 10 am

Sri Aurobindo Institute of Culture presents a programme of classical music and dance featuring Ajoy Chakraborty (vocal), Saswati Sen (Kathak) and Sanjukta Panigrahi (Odissi).

At G.D. Birla Sabhagar (Queens Park).

13 January: 4.30 pm

Surobhanu's annual function teatures electric Hawaiian guitar recital by Shyamal Deb and his students.

At Rathindra Mancha (Jorasanko Thakur Barı)

14 January; 6 pm

The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture presents a sitar recital by James Pomerantz, disciple of Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, to be followed by Pandit Kishan Maharaj's tabla solo.

At Vivekananda Hall (Gol Park). 17 January: 6.30 pm

Nandikar will stage the play, Sankhapurer Sukanya, directed by Rudraprasad Sengupta.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302). 18 January: 6.30 pm

Padatik Dance Circle presents



Pandit Kishan Mahara

Odissi recitals by Sharmila Paul and Rina Jana.

At Padatik Little Theatre (6/7 AIC Bose Road: 446087).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2) Al-101 at 0230 Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5): Al-306 at 1915; Dep. (5). Al-306 at 2020

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): Al-309 at 1910, Dep. (6): Ai-309 at 2025. London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr., (7):

Al-132/1328 at 1230

Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr.

(4): SU-537 at 1625.
* Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4), SU-538 at 1825

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanol: Arr. (2). SU-541 at 0755; Dep. (2). SU-541 at 0905. Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2). SU-542 at 1755, Dep (2) SU-542 at 1905.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-185 at 0630

Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4): RJ-184 at 0800.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4). SQ-420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr (2). SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4). SQ-420 at

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7) IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1530.

Kethmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 6 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr (1, 5): RA-

213 at 1430. Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (6): IC-723 at 1240, Dep. (daily): BG-092 at 1150 and BG-098 at 2020, Dep. (1, 4, 7): BG-094 at 1700.

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (6) IC-724 at 1500, Arr. (1, 3, 5): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (daily): BG-091 at 1110 and BG-097 at 1940, Arr. (1, 4, 7). BG-093 at 1620

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (6) IC-225 at 1330, Dep. (2, 5) BG-698 at 1355

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (6): IC-226 at 1550, Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1310.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (2) KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India :::::::::::

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1). Al-1328 at

Indian Airlines *********

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (deily). IC-263 at 0800 and IC-402 at 1730; Arr (daily): IC-401 at 1240 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily). IC-176 at 0850 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-265 at 1715; Arr. (daily). IC-266 at 2205

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 1040, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 4): IC-542 at 4. 6) IC-541 at 0915

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily). IC-271 at 1620; Arr. (daily): IC-272 at 2150

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0830, Dep. (daily). IC-229 at 1340, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-730 at 1130, Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0805; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): Printed here is the regular indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For essistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266869, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

IC-213 at 1200

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-219 at 0810; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-220 at 1250 Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-269 at 1650, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-269 at 1650, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-270 at 2040

Calcutta-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-259 at 1330; Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-260 at 1610

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily). IC-255 at 0740; Arr. (daily). IC-256 at 1220

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 1305, Arr (daily): IC-202 at 1635.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 0905; Arr (daily), IC-409 at 1545

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0545, Arr. (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1): IC-287 at 0545; Arr (1). IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5). IC-243 at 1400, Dep (daily) IC-241 at 0800, Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-245 at 1000; Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 1000, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1450, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5). IC-244 at 1600, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6). IC-246 at 1200.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1306, Arr. (daily): IC-222

at 1520 Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 7) IC-277 at 1745; Arr. (1, 2, 7): IC-278 at 2215

Vayudoot & Calcutta-Agartala-Imphal: Deo. (1, 3, 5): PF-727 at 0530; Arr. (1, 3,

5): PF-728 at 1120. Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (7): PF-729A at 0550; Arr. (7): PF-730A at 1050.

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-701 at 1140; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-702 at 1615.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamaipur-Kallashahar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-729 at 0550; Arr.

(2, 4, 6): PF-730 at 1040. Calcutta-Silcher-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-701 at 1100; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-702 at 1715.

Calcutta-Rourkela: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-715 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-716 at 0855.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tazu: Dep. (2, 6): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (2, 6): PF-710 at 1840.

Celcuta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Uso. (4): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (4): PF-710 at 1750.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lliabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu; Dep. (7): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (7): PF-710 at 1705:

Calcutta-Aizawi-Slichar-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta.

705 at 0915; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7):
PF-706 at 1620.
Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (1, 3, 5):
PF-729A at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5):
PF-730A at 1410.

Calcutta-Alzawi-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705 at 0910 and PF-729B at 1310; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706 at 1255 and PF-730B at 1655.

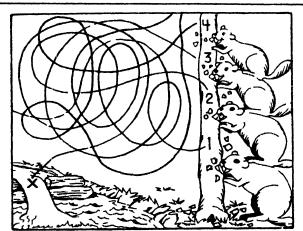
Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Ranchi-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0550; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1115.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Ranchi-PF-718 at 0745.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-707 at 0800; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

		,			ains				
Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY				nrture	SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival	
Up 2311	Time 19-00	Dolhi-Kalka Mail	Time	Dn 2212	}				
3005	19-20	Amritaer Meil	8-30 8-05	2312 3006	Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
3003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Medres Mail	7-00	6004
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8-00	800
		press via Gaya-Varanasi	10 00	2002	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	2859
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	8033
		Arr-Wed. Fri. & Sun			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagour	15-50	8029
2303 9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex- press via Patna	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Express	11-50	284	
		Dep-Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sun. Arr-Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat.			2611	22-35	Bangaiore Express Dep—Tues	13-45	2612
	Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	i		Arr—Sun.			
	week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	801	
	Dep-Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. &			8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	801	
	Sun.			8005	21-00	Sembelpur Express	7-30	800	
	Arr-Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. &			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	8010	
		Sun.			8007	22-00	Purl Express Via Cuttack	5-30	800
2373 23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkly	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jagannath (Purl) Express Via Narai	7-45	841	
		Dep—Tues. Fri. & Sat. Arr—Tues. Wed. & Sat.			2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	282
2547	13-15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	8079	23-20	Tirupeti Express	4-15	8080
		press Dep Mon. & Thurs.			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	14-55	804
		Arr—Thurs. & Mon.		_	8017	16-45	Purulia Express	11-20	801
1009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-20	3010			Dep—Except Saturday Arr—Except Sunday		
1007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	
3049	13-05	Amritear Express	15-45	3050	ĺ		Monday only		
1011 1039	20-45 20-55	Delhi Express via Main Line Delhi Janata Express via	6-10 5-30	3012 3040	-	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express	13-45	260
019	16-00	Main Line	44.55	2000	i		Saturday only		
1021	22-00	Lucknow Express Mithila Express	11-55	3020	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
2557	6-00	Kanchenjunga Express	5-00 20-50	3022 2558			Guwahati Weekly Express		
659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	2556 5660	ł		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
317	6-10	Black Diamond Express			0050	00.05	Thursday only	00.45	
029	17-15	Coalfield Express	21-25 10-30	3318 3030	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Herbour	22-15	
1035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036	1		Terminus Weekly Express		
1035 1031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032	1		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
025	23-00	North Bihar Express	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Saturday only Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	265
		DepWednesday ArrFriday			1	~~	Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)	.0 .0	
071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express DepTues. Thurs. & Sat.	6-00	3072			Dep-Fri. & Sun Arr-Tues. & Fri.		
		Arr—Mon. Thurs & Sat.			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	_
015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016			Weekly Express (via Howrah		
159	15-25	Chambel (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160	l		& Cuttack)		
		weekly Superfast Express Dep—Thurs. Sat. & Sun.				14-10	Wednesday only Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	267
	Arr-Tues, Wed. & Thurs.			_	17-10	Weekly Express (via Howrah	10-10	20/	
171	15-25	Shipra (indore) Express Dep—Tues, & Wed.	7-30	1172			& Cuttack) Monday only		
		Arr-Sat. & Sun			2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	
327	15-25	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Ex- press	7-30	3328	25.0	E.A. "QQ	minus Weekly Express (via Howrah)		
		Dep & Arr-Mon. & Fri			1		Thursday only		
049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patna Weekly Express (via	13-45	2609
		Sealdah					Howrah) Wednesday only		
143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	l		· ·		
153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154	l				
151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152	ENQU	RIES: Fo	r round the clock information of	Eastern I	Railwa
133	20-45	Mughal Saral Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	trains,	piesse d er inform	ilai 203545-54 for in-coming trair nation. For information about	ns; 20353!	5-44 fo
103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104	Easter	n and So	outh Eastern Railways trains, die	203500	(from !
185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186	am to	9 pm on	weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm	on Sunda	ys and
		Dep & Arr-Wed, Fri. & Sun			i nezette	ed holida	val		-

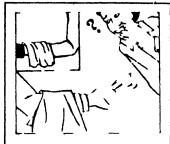
JUNIOR WHIRL - Hal Kaufman



BUSY BEAVERS! Which one of four beavers building a dam fells the dead tree above? Trace through lines to decide

 AGE GAUGE! Dan's dad's age is the same as Dan's agr with digits reversed. Last year Dan's dad's age was four times. Dan's How old are they?

JAKS SEESULP OOK S EC



UNDERHAND DECEPTION

You might say that this bit of mag c is underhanded indeed it s

The magic an displays a small coin in his or her palm. He or he ther covers the coin with a cloth and wites bystanders to feel the coin under the covering (see inset above).

Alakazam when the covering s then removed the coin a gond Secret A friend acts as a con

Secret: A friend acts 35 a confederate. He or she is the last per son to reach under the covering. The confederate picks up the confiderate picks up the secretary of the pick of the

• PLACE CARDI Find six assorted geographic entities to produce POLAND diagonally in the diagram below Clues 1 Beijing formerly 2 World's third largest island 3 Alaskan oil depot 4 World's largest desert 5 Bulwark of Greece said Pindar 6 Spain's capital

L h s av 3 H 1

HOCUS-FOCUS





CAN YOU TRUS! YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Sign is smaller 2 Club head is different 3 Sleeves are shorter 4 Cloud is smaller 5 Letter C is missing 8 Strap is missing

FUNSPOT



CRASH COURSE! Hold on — our cance toting pai is straying from the beaten path Code 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

SABOTEUR

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points sen sees sursom signered



OUIZ 🗆 Neil O'Brien

Santosh Majumdar reports on the last AQUO Quiz of 1990:

"The Eddie Hyde Memorial Quiz may lack the glamour and the crowds, both of teams and spectators, but it retains a quaint old world charm without frills and gimmicks and always with a high standard of quizzing.

"This year's quiz ran true to tradition. The 20-odd entries saw two groups of four seeds in the prelims while the others went through a single elimination round to enter one of the prelims—a welcome innovation which over a long evening's quizzing is a great timesaver.

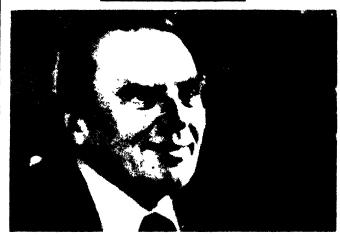
"The two preliminaries saw some upsets in form. In the first, Syzygy were comfortable winners ahead of IIM 'A'. Tollygunge Nagarik Sangha' (TNS) clinched third place, leaving Octette-Non-Jalis to fight out a tie-breaker for the last spot in the final which Octette won. In the second round Scherzo led throughout but lost out to Tekniks in the last question of the day. DI 'A' were third and Quartet fourth.

"The final saw DI 'A' go into an early lead, with Scherzo hot on their heels, Syzygy and IIM 'A' being the other prominent performers. At the half-way stage DI 'A' were four points in front of



11th Question: In a car factory what is a marriage pact? (Vikas Singh, C/20, Sector 18, Rourkela 769003, Orissa)

Ans: The merging of the sliding chassis under the body shell of the automobile.



Scherzo. In the anticlockwise round DI and Scherzo got stuck, while the others, especially Octette, Tekniks and Syzygy, began to move. However just when they looked like being passed DI just kept its nose in front till the end when they missed their last direct to give Octette a bonus and a dead-heat on 23½ each; Syzygy were just behind on 22. In the four question tiebreaker, DI 'A' (Neil O'Brien, Stanley David, Sivaji Roy

and Benjamin Zachariah prevailed 2-1, showing once again that the veteran teams still had it in them.

"Quizmasters Shovan Choudhuri and Saurav Sen, making their debuts on the open circuit, were a fine study in contrasts—the former lively, the latter serious and measured, but both producing the right stuff for a good quiz as evinced in the close finish.

"Thus the curtain came down on another year of

AQUO open quizzing, with DI 'A' making a clean sweep of all the four quizzes—a familiar scenario"

A 'Who Am I?' from Othello Mazoomdar, Boral.

"He was born during the second decade of this century of a highway engineer father and had studied at the Alliance Française in Paris after matriculation in law. He was co-founder and member of a literary group named Zargary and was also an active member of vagabands club. He had been dismissed from Radio service for his leftist views. He had translated Shakespeare's As You Like It on commission from the Underground Theatre Council. He was his country's consulate in New York and later a cultural attache ir Washington. At the age of 47 his autobiography Native Realm was published and 10 years later Native Realm: A Search for Self-Definition was published in the USA. In his late sixties he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature and his Harvard lectures appeared under the title The Witness of Poetry. Amongst his notable works are City Without Name, Private Obligations, The Garden of Knowledge, Unattainable Earth and Starting with My Streets. "Who is he?-Czeslaw Milosz (b. 1911, Nobel Prize 1980).

QUESTIONS

Mach English post died Conscioussis at the age 1857/Eintechant Anjurk

Patricipation of the following state of the Bergal section at Edges week week at a section of the section of th

writer. I had a secondhand green Ambassador. My real name and penname were also famous in Bengali fiction. Who am 1?" (Biplab Biswas, Calcutta 66) 5. "I could smell violence in the air." Who said this and in what context? (Arun Kr Puronit, Calculta 7) 6. What is blintz? (Ranajit Kundu, Bhubaneswar 4) 7. If the stem of a feather is called a "Scape", what is the shall of a feather called? (Mürali Pannikker, Calcutte 26) 4. in the world of telecommunications and space technology, which institu-tion has employed 29:000 people of whom 4,000

have doctoral degrees, and seven are Nobel Prize winners in physics? (Madhusudan Dutta, Calcutta 6)
9. "I was not so good as Sachin Tendulkar at that age. He is a marvel. He is God's gift to world cricket and will surely play for another 15-20 years." Who said this? (Shelkh Abdur Rab, Burdwan 51)
10. Which great maestro of the music world used the pseudonym A.B. Kureshi as a music director in Hindi cinema? (Nirveek Bhattachailes, Kharagur 2)

ANSWERS

anteam alder

Authorise School sections of the control of the con

INNER EYE Dejan Daruwalla

RIES

March 21--April 20 This is the time to close deals, invest, and go in for major transactions and important settlements, be they professional or personal Attend to your work first. Ro-

mance can wait Extra health care is a must for the next 24 days. A shift or a sudden trip is probable

AURUS April 21 May 20

Your enemies will be willing to wound but afraid to strike because you will gore them to death Success in enterprise and romance is destined. In romance, you are in your typical ardent element. The financial side shows a happy going in matters of health, you will be as radiant as the sun Travel is a distinct possibility Visitors might drop in The domestic scene is favourably signified



EMINI

May 21 June 20 You will be loved and

hated in equal measure Also, it is travel time Expenses will sky rocket in romance, you will carry on with gusto and zeal. Take care of expenses and outgoings. A journey around the 6th is probable Property transactions and painting the house are also likely



ANCER

June 21 July 20

Expect good news by mail, calls, journeys or word of mouth. You will be happy and thus spread good cheer all around. Expect visitors, lovers and friends to drop in Romance will be sweet and lovely. Your purse and wallet will be bulging. You will be as strong and active as the acrobat Travel will give you pleasure and profit You will be the perfect husband or housewife. Children give joy.



EO

July 21- August 21

A new position of power and responsibility, or a promotion or

tremendous social status will be yours. In romance, your heart will twang like a guitar played by an expert. Money will be sho-wered upon you. Take appropri-ate health safeguards as there is a danger of accidents or operations. You will

overhaul your home in a strange

manner.



















Sept 23 Oct 22

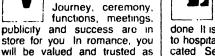
heavy but work will be done It is also travel time. Visits to hospitals and clinics are indicated Secret attachments and It is just possible that you could feel a bit low or under the weather Children and hobbies will certainly take your time and energy You will also attend to the home and house in a big way Financially



IBRA

Expenses will be

the over heads will be killing



liaison are probable



IRGO

never before Assignments

proposals and offers make you

prosperous Health will be a

case of mind over matter You

may have to travel for some

important work. Children, grand-

children, parents and in-laws

August 22 Sept 22

January 13

look up to you

Moon-Mercury conjunction: This conjunction helps you to sell, buy, negotiate, travel and orga-nise. Wait till March for a slice of good luck. Financial muddles are possible.

January 14

Moon-Uranus union; Events with catch up with you. Sudden gains are probable. A birthyear, of dramatic changes, twists and turns. However, beware of where you are heading to:

January 15

New Moon: You must get rid by their and connections that have lost their meaning and purpose. On the possible side, high rollings creativity romance, children, speculation and soboles should finit you. Your heart will be at 30 a factor mysters.

Language 18.

Language

February. Till then health precautions and mood flucture keep you on your toke. Ento-tionally, a complex birthyeer. Expenses mount but all fer a bet life.

January 17

Moon opposition Jupiter Just keep your options open; be one full in linerical and femily that tets, and the rest will follow. Opportunities to advance will be available. Luxury and triendiship will be your attendants, in short, exciting times lie shead.

January 18

Stirr confunction Saturn: White his could repen health problems; rest assured if will peed the a rithelf or two Bassissippope and highlights as it comes.

enuary 19

for madile Uranue Neptune: It must be write to reach out to call to the water to reach out to call the woode, and that the last and their good reews by the new year



CORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 22 You will sing like a

nightingale and bellow like a bull. You will get your work done. Romance and mar-riage are destined So also are collaborations Your financial graph will be mobile and upwards Health improves and so does your performance. A journey for pleasure and profit is likely



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23-Dec 20

You will be busy building your financial mus-

cles Rest assured that new openings and assignments will be yours. Give top priority to your work and then matters of the heart. Because of work pressures, take some time off and relax. Travel only if your occupation requires you to do so. Children give satisfaction and home has the necessary tranquility and comfort



APRICORN

Dec 21 - Jan 19

News, views, children, hobbies, work and finance are the week's highlights. In romance, you will be ardent and successful Money will pour into your pocket, but it will also leap out with equal agility. Health will improve and so will your temper. The next 21 days are definitely favourable for



QUARIUS

Jan 20---Feb 18

a trip and an emotional tie.

The home front is completely activated

and revitalised. A journey at short notice is probable. You will love with half a heart and count your cash with the other. Loans, funds, buying and selling are favourably signified A little extra health care is advisable. The mid-week is ideal for a journey or a letter or a call.



ISCES

Feb 19- March 20

Messages, calls,

love, laughter, socialising, group activity and possibly an important proposal for marriage and business are week's main trends Financial deals will come through and offers will be received Your health holds up to pulls and pressures. You will be mobile and active. Get your travel-kit ready. A round of renovation and decoration, holidaying, and a home away from home are fore-

COMICS























MCCSE MILER BY BOL Weber

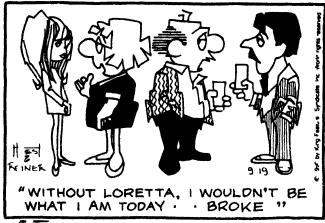


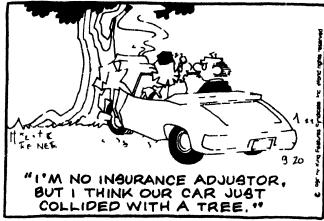




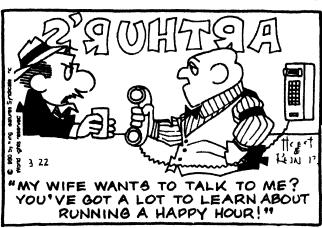


THE LOCKHORNS









GARFIELD By Jim Davis

















THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP

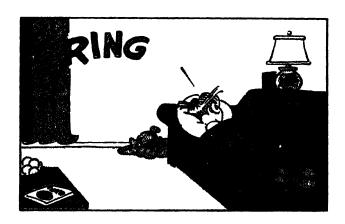






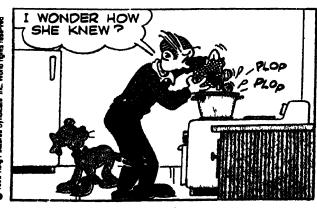












CANDID CAMERA



With that unputdownable columnist, **Khushwant Singh**, coming up with another bright idea—his autobiography—a lot of people are already in the deep end. Fearing that the sardar of scholarship and smut will take their pants off in the book, they have already rung him up and told him to stick to his bottle-and-buttocks scribbles inside the bulb. Photograph by PANKAJ SHARMA

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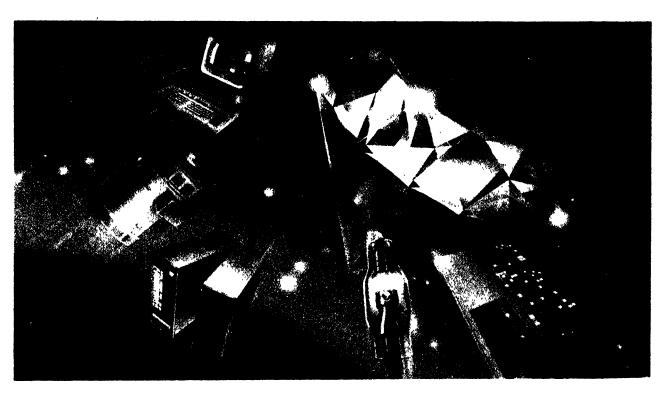


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Restore Their Respect First

Thanks for exposing the mass murder of female foetuses in the name of amniocentesis ('Boy or Girl?' October 28).

A ban on the misused scientific marvel will certainly help to arrest the trend, but we have to remove the root cause of the killings first by restoring to women their respect.

Vivek Agarwal, Calcutta

■ The article was very convincing. But till we can completely wipe out the dowry system, we will have to ignore female foeticide.

It is less painful for parents to bear the murder of an unborn girl than to face the 'dowry death' of their grown-up daughter later in life.

Rakesh Verma, Calcutta Bread and Books

I was glad to know about students who do not take money from their parents ('Earning While Learning,' November 25). Till the middle of this century, learning was not a must, earning was. Even a five-year-old would help his guardian in the field and 'pay' for his keep.

Today we have 20-yearolds spending their father's money. So these selfsufficient students deserve our admiration.

Sumon Roy, Midrapore (W.B.)

The current crop of college students have changed the scenario completely. Previously their interests only ranged from music to movies, girla/guys 10 glad rags, and addas to pizzas. Pradeep Jain.
Calcutta

I think the enterprise shown by these 'earning students' is commendable. It seems influes are all be-

ginning to 'go young' not just the Sachin Tendulkars! A class XII Student, St Xavier's College, Calcutta

■ Why has the writer given us information based mainly on St Xavier's College? There are other colleges in the city, too, where the students work very hard to help themselves and their parents, while they depend mainly on giving tuitions. At St Xavier's, the boys of the commerce department finish classes at 9.30 am and

We have no knowledge of any other poet in any language in this century who singlemindedly in every couplet of his conveyed a message that we must widen our mental horizon and face our problems with self confidence.

Sahir was next to none in hitting back at the evil influences of society on behalf of the struggling millions and the down-and-out women. In this context, you deserve special appreciation in translating



Sahir: A poet of the people

then go and work in the shops or firms of their fathers. Life there is a lot easier and the 'pocket money' rather handsome.

Also, the writer could have covered some students of the girls' colleges. Aditi Ganguli,

Calcutta
The Poet of
Humanity

'The Spell of Sahir' (November 4) on the great poet's 10th death amiversary was a belitting tribute. The selection of poems and the translations were excellent.

Ponchh kar ashq and Woh subah kabhi to aayegi. Poonam and B.P. Berry, Calcutta

Recipes of the Raj

The cover story, 'Polo Pilaff (December 16), was more of a mostalgic look at the British Raj than about their recipes.

However, the story was informative about the customs and habits, and the likes and dislikes of the British during their rai in India.

Subhani Sultana, Cuttack

The Telegraph



Simranjit Singh Mann is back on the centrestage of Punjab politics following his talks with Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar. But what does he really stand for? A look at the man and his politics.

Ashım Kumar Sı combines a draftsman's precision with an artist's vision to recreate the city's landmarks in bamboo.

The Kuwaitis who are pouring into Saudi Arabia are unlike refugees elsewhere in the world. They can afford all the comforts that go with five-star refuge.

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Cover Jagdish Yadav

COVERSION





Treading carefully?

Whose Man Man Is He?

The importance, and the problem, of being Simranjeet Singh Mann is that he cannot be Simranjeet Singh Mann. If he has to survive where he is today, at the shaky pinnacle of Punjab politics, he has to be different things to different people, contrary things, in fact, to contrary people. For New Delhi he must symbolise the hope for isolating or neutralising the ultras and delivering, at long last, a political solution to the Punjab problem that does not mean any compromise on the structure of the Indian state: for the militants of the Panthic committees and the terrorists working under them he must mean the articulate, and as yet legitimate, face of their struggle for Khalistan; for the moderates among the Akalis he must be the promise of a return to the old-fashioned politics of power and prestige and plenty. To a blistered section of the populace he must be the instrument for securing justice that has long been promised and long been delayed; to another section, the Hindu minority, he must stand as assurance that the pursuit of justice does not mean a recourse to the law of the jungle and the overlordship of the gun.

And yet, the bigger problem of being Simranjeet Singh Mann is that he cannot be all these people. Can he hope to persuade New Delhi to grant secession and the creation of a theocratic Khalistan? He can't. Can he hope to maintain his credibility with the militants if he dilutes the demand for self-determination and settles for a political deal within the Indian union? He can't. Can he keep the militants at bay and run the politics of the state, credibly and peacefully, with the moderate elementsand, hope to survive, politically and physically? He can't. Can he hope to get the kind of justice that sections of Punjab are demanding without feeding fuel to the already disconcerting clamour for a Hindu rashtra in the north? He can't. Can he draw a line for the terrorists and command them to cease the killings? He can't. Circumstances have placed Simranjeet Singh Mann, or he himself has, on the razoredge of contradictions that are forever sharpening against each other. Behind his great comeback—his election as president of the reunited Akali factions and his triumphant new status as chief spokesman of Sikh interests after months of increasing isolation in the Akali ranks—the grind is getting harder. "I have achieved a significant breakthrough, I have legitimised the fight of the militants," he proclaimed boastfully soon after his talk with Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar in New Delhi recently. But it would appear that he had begun chipping away at his own legitimacy on either flank. Mann had come to New Delhi with a memorandum demanding "self-determination for the Sikh nation"



At the Golden Temple

After a period of isolation,
Simranjeet Singh Mann is
back on the centrestage
of Punjab politics. But
how much longer can he
walk the tightrope
between the terrorists
and the Indian
government?
SANKARSHAN
THAKUR reports

but New Delhi will not go on talking to him if he keeps insisting on that demand. On the other hand, the militants, who seem to be with him now, will not show endless patience; he either succeeds in extracting Khalistan with his methods or makes way.

New Delhi, or at least the Chandra

Shekhar government, still considers Mann as the best bet for untangling Punjab despite his open support to the militants and, now, his formal demand for a separate nation. As one senior Central minister close to Chandra Shekhar says, "Mann is not in an easy position; he is doing his own tightrope in Puniab and a lot of things that he says and does have to be understood in that context. It is useless to jump to conclusions about his intentions." The obvious hint is that Mann's pro-militant stance and his seditious demands are more a posture that anything else, a tactic to retain credibility with the militants while he works at a political settlement with the Centre. But this assessment might be generated more by fervent hope than by actual faith for there has never really been any doubt about whose side Mann is on.

Simranjeet Singh Mann was one of the Searliest converts to the Bhindranwale creed. Indeed, the seeds of a separate Sikh nation had been embedded in his consciousness even before Bhindranwale appeared on the scene. Mann comes from one of the most prosperous and politicised families in Punjab and his father, Sardar Joginder Singh Mann, was one of the first to raise the demand for secession.

He had to be mollified with the Speakership of the Punjab Assembly, and later, the position of a minister. But quite obviously, he had passed on his dream to

When Bhindranwale took over the Damdami Taksal and launched his campaign in the early Eighties, Mann, an IPS officer, was senior superintendent of police in Fandkot. His colleagues in the service still

New Delhi, or at least the **Chandra Shekhar** government, still considers Mann as the best bet for untangling Punjab despite his open support to the militants, and now, his demand for a separate nation

remember how Bhindranwale captured Mann's imagination and how he made no secret of his fascination for the man he already considered a saint. "He would not tire of telling us," says one of his erstwhile colleagues in the police, "of how correct and pure Bhindranwale was, of how he was salvaging Sikhism and the Sikh people from corruption, of how he was revitalising the dream of the Sikh gurus. Mann was totally taken in." Bhindranwale's outings in Faridkot, his home district, were a great success because Mann saw to it that they were: often he himself would accompany Bhindranwale on his village tours where he preached his fundamentalism. A little later, when Bhindranwale came into his own and turned to militancy, Mann is alleged to have helped his people by issuing them gun licences. Disturbing reports about Mann's links with Bhindranwale and his gunmen had been reaching the headquarters at Chandigarh and New Delhi for a long while before he was shunted out of the state and posted to Bombay as group commandant of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). But maintained his links with Bhindranwale and continued to help him in whatever way he could through his influential contacts in the state. "He was too much into Bhindranwale," says his former colleague. "to be bothered about the job. It was as if he was forever psyching himself up to live up to the demands of Bhindranwale who had already become his great hero."

Operation Bluestar and the killing of

Bhindranwale blew Mann's fuse. His two letters of resignation from the IPS to the then President, Giani Zail Singh, said it all. "It is difficult to express in words my feelings over the recent events in Punjab, specially the desecration of the holy precincts of the Golden Temple and 37 other historic gurudwaras... What is even more painful (than the death of Bhindranwale) is that after murdering the great Sikh national hero, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the Indian armed forces placed his body... and displayed them to the Hindu population which went delirious with joy... Mrs Indira Gandhi, by this cruel action, has outdone Muhammad Ghazni... you could have restrained the action of your Prime Minister and made her see the futility of this ruthless military campaign against your own people. The government, the mentally sick and impoistic Hindus will believe that Sikhs were about to wage a war against the government of India... like Mussolini... you are signing away the liberties and lives of your own people... I tell you very frankly that after what your government and the armed forces have done in the Punjab, and are continuing to do with unabated zeal, the Sikhs will not support the government in its war effort, and the Sikh soldier will not put up the type of defence which has always saved India's integrity." Soon after quitting the service, Mann went underground and mounted efforts to, as he himself calls it, "fulfil Sant Bhindranwale's dream." Part of this, if the detailed chargesheets prepared by the investigating agencies are to be believed, was the plot to assassinate Indira

Mann was arrested, trying to escape into Nepal, on the border near Purnea in Bihar soon after Mrs Gandhi was assassinated. He was interned in Bhagalpur jail, where he was to spend the next five years as one of the country's most well-known and well-guarded prisoners. By the time he was let out—one of the last acts of Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister was to order the release of Mann-he had become a bit of a myth, blessed by the muse of incarceration. He was already president of the militant United Akali Dal (UAD), having been unanimously nominated to the post in absentia-his predecessor was none other than Baba Joginder Singh, father of Jamail Singh Bhindran-wale—and in the Lok Sabha polls of November 1989, he had been elected MP from Tarn Taran, the hotbed of Punjab terrorism. Indeed his group had virtually swept Punjab, taking nine of the 13 Lok Sabha seats, not so much by popularity as by terror. Leaders with much greater experience and political standing like Prakash Singh Badal had been relegated to the background. Mann loomed larger than life | Raising the cry for Khalistan





even before the negotiations could get off the ground, Mann had pronounced his lack of faith in the new Prime Minister. "Even V.P. Singh is not serious about solving the Punjab problem," he declared soon after returning to Punjab after the second round of talks. "The government of India is not interested in giving the Sikh people justice, it is not interested in giving us our due.

Mann's sudden turnabout-it finally led, among other things, to a break in his close relationship with Jethmalani who charged him with betrayal-was not entirely surprising for he was just beginning to feel his way around the murky politics of Punjab and the initial signals he got from the Pakistan-based Panthic committee militants were warning signals: the creation of Khalistan, and nothing else, had to be the basis for talks with the Centre. Mann, at that stage was perhaps not prepared to go so far for he had not consolidated himself

politicised families in Puniab and his father, Sardar Joginder Singh Mann, was one of the first to raise the demand for secession. He had to be mollified with the Speakership of the Punjab Assembly, and later, the position of a minister. But guite obviously, he had passed on his dream to his son



Will the real Mann please stand up?

the Centre and at the same time emphasising the "futility of holding talks"; he was decrying, albeit guardedly, "senseless violence" and at the same time attending bhog ceremonies of terrorists; he was calling for Assembly elections in Punjab and at the same time quoting this international convention and that to justify holding talks with the government in Geneva or Washington; he was criticising Badal and Tohra from the platform and surreptitiously seeking to build bridges with them.

All that kept people guessing about

Mann for a while but it did not help. Within eight months of his near-euphoric return to Amritsar from Bhagalpur jail, he had reached his nadir. Prone to rash statements and behaviour and untrained in the treacherous, scheming ways of Akali politics. Mann had lost the support of most of his MPs and a large faction of his party as well. Baba Joginder Singh had withdrawn to the background, leaving the reins of the UAD in Mann's hands but he could not keep the party together. Rajdev Singh, one of Mann's close associates and Akali MP, broke away to form a splinter group. Atinder Pal Singh, another party MP who had worked in tandem with Mann during the post-Bluestar pre-assassination days and had been similarly charged with conspiracy to kill Mrs Gandhi, too, fell away, deriding the "vagueness" of Mann's politics and his "inability to deliver the goods". Birnal Khalsa, yet another MP and widow of Beant Singh, one of the assassins of Mrs Gandhi, also cooled off towards Mann and stopped addressing public meetings with him. He himself did not have a voice in Parliament for he had refused to take oath because the rules did not permit him to carry his three-foot-long sword into the House. Mann also knew that neither Badal nor the wily Gurcharan Singh Tohra saw eye to eye with him. As a result, his isolation was near complete.

t was during this period that Mann de-Lcided to chart out a clearer course for hirnself and began building stronger contacts with the Pakistan-based Panthic committees, particularly the two influential ones headed by Dr Sohan Singh and Gur-

When Bhindranwale took over the Damdami Taksal and launched his campaign in the early Eighties, Mann, an IPS officer, was senior superintendent of police in Faridkot. His colleagues in the service still remember how Bhindranwale captured Mann's imagination and how he made no secret of his fascination for the man he already considered a saint

bachan Singh Manochahal. His message to them was clear: he would dither no more about asking for Khalistan. It is evident that Mann got a positive response, at least from the influential Panthic committees of Dr Sohan Singh, for he has been publicly supported by them on several occasions in recent weeks. Mann, in turn, has extended total support to Panthic committee diktats-particularly the codes of conduct for social behaviour and the media-and defended killings by terrorist groups. Indeed. Mann bestows upon the terrorists all the honour and dignity of freedom fighters, as do moderate Akali leaders like Badal, who surprised many at the Jor Mela Akali conference on December 25 by resorting to full-blooded militant rhetoric and going so far as to say, "We have to justify the militants' cause. They have achieved in a few hours' time what we could not achieve in years of struggle.

Getting Badal and Tohra and indeed Barnala's Longowal Akali Dal, to accept his leadership has been a great political victory for Mann and could prove portentous as far as New Delhi is concerned. Ironically, the unity of Akali factions under the Mann umbrella was brought about through the efforts of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and the Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal. Badal has had a longstanding personal friendship with both and it is believed that it was the Prime Minister who persuaded Badal to accept Mann's leadership in the hope of outflanking the militants. If Mann could be given the support of Badal's political base, the calculation went, he could be given the confidence to break away from the terrorist/militant elements and could, at a later stage, confront them. Mann was only too happy to welcome Badal and Tohra (who stepped down from the SGPC presidentship in the interests of unity but packed the new committee with his own men) as he was looking for consolidation. Badal and Tohra had their compulsions: against the backdrop of rising militancy and at a time when the government itself appeared to be giving in to them, they too were looking to gain some credibility with the militants, for reasons of safety, if nothing else. Mann provided an ideal platform.

The unity deal was clinched at the Burail jail near Chandigarh where both Badal and Tohra been interned in the last week of November. Mann, who too had been arrested, was brought specially by the government from Patiala jail to meet Badal

and Tohra.

The hope, quite obviously, is that together Badal and Tohra be able to swamp the militants among the Akalis. But then, the real heavyweights in Punjab are the gunmen of the Panthic committee and will they-or their current public face called Simranjeet Singh Mann—allow this? ■

What's in a Name?

remember the time when I was dragged off to see the just born of my friend. The hospital room was full of uncles, aunts, cousins, bouquets of flowers, boxes of chocolates and the dazed husband of my friend, who was making his debut in fatherhood.' And there was the star of the show. A teeny, bald, pink bundle on the bed beside my proud friend, eyes squinted against the light. It let out a little squeal. "Oh, doesn't it sound musical, gushed a fat woman from the far side, "We must give her a famous singer's name." I nearly threw the armchair at her.

That little squeal sounded more like a pathetic protest. Nobody had bothered to ask her if she was interested in being popped out from her comfortable 10-month home into a strange planet and get

Ask that to the guy named Seethalakshmi

stared at by a bunch of ogres. "What name are you going to give her?" someone asked. The hapless, trussed-up missionary surrounded by liplicking cannibals wanting to know "How shall we have him? Fried, scrambled or boiled?" might have been in the same position as the tiny, bald, pink bundle.

Sometimes names can be a life sentence delivered on us for no fault of ours. I remember in my boys-only school, I had a classmate doomed with the name Seethalakshmi;

either the astrologers had misread the stars or his parents were too bashful to peer at his vital parts to determine his sex. They probably flipped a coin. Anyway, poor Seethalakshmi had a torrid time from us, as you can imagine. He bore it all with a dreamy smile. Seethalakshmi was a philosopher in the making.

Other times, names seem like pranks played by parents. A Tamil odd-job-boy in my grandfather's farm had a birth certificate name of Mookkan. Translated it's "the man with the nose." I do remember that I spent quite a bit of my holidays there studying Mookkan's profile from all angles. Even now, I don't recall anything about his nose that could compare remotely with the celebrated beaks of folks like

Cleopatra, Charles de Gaulle Bill Lawry or Asterix. And by the time he reached manhood, Mookkan was so fed up of being a sort of a local tourist attraction that he changed his name to a far less spectacular 'Mohan'.

Some people have lent their names to distinct sorts of human behaviour. Like the Marquis de Sade and sadism for instance. But Satan in his Hiss and Tell Memoirs begs to differ. Says the Devil, "It's not the Marquis de Sade but the pop singer Sade who is behind the origin of the word 'sadism'. Have you ever heard her sing? She inflicts more pain and punishment than he ever did."

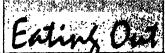
In this era of glasnost, people have freely broken the hold of the tyranical parents-imposed names. Ronald Reagan, for instance, also goes down in history as 'The Gipper,' 'The Mannequin' and for his final days at the White House, 'The Lame Duck'. George Bush's immediate future is being watched with great interest. Especially now that he's being given hell for his campaign "Read my lips—no new taxes" bravado.

Like most of us who grew up on Tintin comics, I used to be a great admirer of captain Haddock's talent in changing the names of people he didn't like. The changes ranged from 'baby-snatchers', 'fillibusters', 'pirates' to even 'ectoplasms', 'hydrocarbons'.

The most enterprising name changes in our country must be the South Indian film industry. There they have sirens romping on the screen to names like 'Silk Smitha' 'Nylex Nalini', 'Disco Shanti'.

Just the other day, I was mildly startled to hear from reliable sources that, one of the editors in another paper, whose job is to decide whether the bilge I produce is printable or not, has taken a strong dislike to me because of my name. I haven't yet had the honour of meeting the gentleman. In fact, I don't even know his name. But I'll bet my only shirt that it isn't Jeeves, Bertie Wooster or Ukridge. Oh, what the dickens, what's in a name? **Psmith**







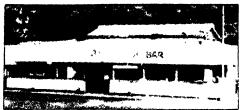
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NALINI RANJAN SARKAR (1882-1953)

An eminent public person, industrialist and economist, Nalini Ranjan Sarkar led a life full of activity, contributing to the political and economic regeneration of India. His associations with S.N. Banerjea, Gandhi, Tagore, G.R. Das, Motilal Nehru and Tej Bahadur Sapru helped him to develop his ideas on nationalism and economic freedom. Although he disliked the British Raj, he was not against the British in general and was, in fact, close to a number of them. He visited England in 1936 on a business trip and 12 years later toured the UK and the US with the Indian Industrial Mis sion.

Sarkar was born in Mymensingh (now in Bangladesh). He had his schooling in Saijura and Dhaka before going on to Jagannath College, also in Dhaka, and City College He was a Fellow of Calcutta University Senate (1934), member of the Court of the University of Dacca (1940-41), president of the Presidency College governing body (1942), presidence of

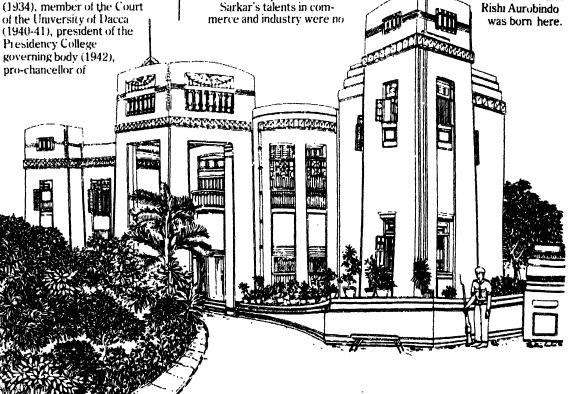
Delhi University (1941-42) and vice-president of the National Council of Education, Bengal (1945-53).

Sarkar joined the anti-Partition movement in 1905-06 and later the non-cooperation movement in 1920. A follower of non-violence, he was a leader of the Swarajya Party and also the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. Between 1920 and 1928 he was a member of the Bengal Legislative Council and became the chief whip of the Swarajya Party. With A.K. Fazlul Haq he organised the Krishak Praia Party and became finance minister in the Hag ministry. In 1939 Sarkar finally resigned from the cabinet and joined the Victory's Executive Council (1941-42), which he subsequently quit in protest against Mahatma Gandhi's arrest. In 1947 he joined Dr B.C. Roy's cabinet as finance minister. He retired from politics in 1952.

less: he was president of the Hindusthan Cooperative Insurance Society and took a leading part in sponsoring several insurance houses, building societies, glass works and heavy chemical units. He was also president of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and chairman of the Indian Council of Technical Education. Besides, Sarkar was a member of the Central Banking Enquiry Committee, Central Jute Committee, Railway Retrenchment Committee, Board of Incometax Referees and was a delegate to the Indo-Japanese Trade Conference (1923) and a commissioner of Port Trust.

The sketch below shows
Sarkar's residence at 237
Acharya Jagadish Chandra
Bose Road in central Calcutta.
The building now houses the
Security Control Office of the
Calcutta Police.

It is also said that



THE ARTS

n a small, dank room in the heart of this bustling metropolis a unique talent has flowered, as evident from the intricate 'bamboo portraits' now on display at the Academy of Fine Arts.

Ashim Kumar Si (50), whose creative mind and nimble fingers crafted the exhibits, is an employee of Pricewater House, with no artistic training whatsoever. A couple of years ago, he came across a local craftsman working with bamboo bark. Although the result was far from perfect, the idea captured his imagination completely. He returned to his one-room flat and with the encouragement of his family, set out to try his hand at recreating the city's landmarks with bamboo filings on a plywood

"The first task was to muster 100 per cent concentration and infinite patience," says Si, while chiselling a piece of sea-



With his complete lack of formal training, our artist set out with a very basic set of apparatus: a hacksaw, a chisel, a knife and a pair of scissors. His material too, was simple--black chart paper to paste on because this renders it more flexible and gives it a certain glint. A "heat treatment" later lends the "circular effect" and results in the threedimensional "optical illusion".

Si began work on his por-

trait---the Victoria Memorial--in August 1989. He based his efforts on the picture of the building in an Air India calendar. Belur Math took the longest to complete (50 days) was subsequently picked up from an Anandamela cover, while the rest was modelled on picture postcards. Si is quick to demur to the word "model" and insists that while he endeavours to depict both proportion and dimension, his work is actually a portrait and not a model by any account. The entire "picture" is worked to scale.

Ashim Kumar Si

has found a

model way

of capturing some of Calcutta's

best-known

landmarks

Photographs: Kishor Roy Choudhury

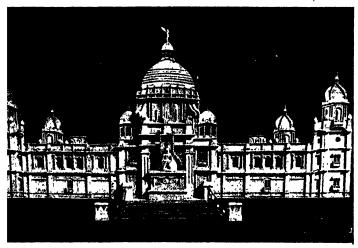
soned bamboo. The usual distractions of the television and his children's voices were easily surmounted, "because I was totally engrossed in my work once I started," he says. On weekdays, he returns from office around 6.30 pm and promptly turns to his engraving, labouring over every painstaking detail till 11 pm. Weekends are spent entirely on this new pursuit.

The scene at his 36, Doctor Lane flat near Wellesley is quite routine. Si's septuagenarian mother, Kanaklata, fondly watches her son at work. She has been his primary source of inspiration. "It was her desire to see Belur Math captured in bamboo before her death that made me complete the portrait, and I felt even more gratified by her joy." Every portrait is created with the minutest care, every tiny motif is included. Si's nephew, who lives with him, is also a big help, lending a hand with the cutting and pasting at times.

the plywood, some Dendrite and his bamboo chips. He prefers to use bamboo that has drifted down rivers and is, thereby, naturally seasoned,

Ashim Si with his mother, Kanaklata





The Victoria Memorial in bamboo

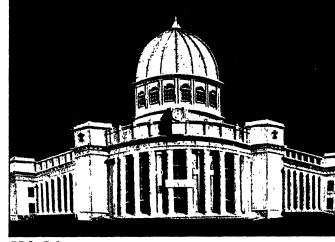
In the case of the High Court, Si took actual measurements because it was impossible to get a photograph of the entire structure due to obstruction by trees and other objects. The latest in the series is the Nakhoda mosque-Si felt it was apt that his earlier attempts to portray the Dakshineswar Kali temple and St Paul's Cathedral should be complemented with a mosque against the topical backdrop of communa! violence. The mosque has been one of his most complex efforts, taking nearly 50 days to complete.

Si has also embarked on a portrait of the Birla Planetarium, on a 30-inch by 20-inch

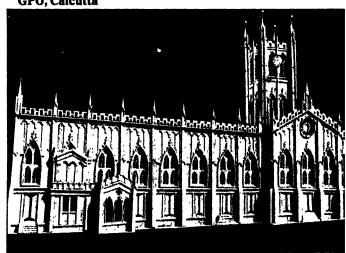
board. Most of the pieces are of a smaller size, except the Shahid Minar (24 inch by 15 inch) and the Writer's Buildings (36 inch by 22 inch). He has also completed the GPO, which has a rather unusual facade, for it includes side wing as well. Most of the portraits required over a month to complete.

And does his family not mind the mess his hobby entails? Si proudly confesses: "No, they could, but don't. They have been of more help than I can ever explain, and most tolerant, considering the limited space in which I live and work."

Dabbing in bamboo filings is



GPO, Calcutta



St Paul's Cathedral



quite common in a tropical country like ours. Crude creations abound, which is why Si is careful to achieve the maximum degree of perfection. And working as he does with strong adhesive, there is little room for error, for the slightest flaw results in the entire effort going to wastern hours of labour go pat into the trash can.

With such a remarkable canvas, it is unlikely that buyers will be far away. So admits to having had offers for his portraits. "But I want to want for the exhibit to be over," he says. And judging by the response of the spectators at the West Gallery over the past week (the exhibition ends tomorrow evening), there should be no cause for despair.

Sudipta Bhattacharjee

AROUND THE WORLD

Laurantis on the run pour into Dhahran and its neighbouring cities in Saudi Arabia at a rate of 200 to 300 a day, their Mercedes-Benzes, BMWs and four-wheel-drive Range Rovers piled high with suitcases.

The 100,000-plus Kuwaiti exiles in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province are among the richest of the world's more than 15 million refugees. In the months since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, they have streamed across the heavily fortified Saudi border north of here, overflowing luxury hotels and apartment buildings and creating a miniboom in the depressed local economy.

All told, more than three lakh Kuwaitis have fled to Saudi Arabia, according to officials of the Kuwaiti government-in-exile here. Thousands more are in neigh-

Steve Raymer reports on the Kuwaiti influx into Saudi Arabia

Photographs: Steve Raymer

bouring Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates—in all, nearly one-half of Kuwant's pre-war native population of about 825,000.

Many appear resigned to a long stay in exile that may strain the bonds of desert hospitality and Arab brotherhood, say Saudis involved in the relief effort. "They are our Arab brothers, so what can we do?" asks a Saudi official of a major oil company who speaks on the condition of anonymity. "But their arrogance and wealth still grate on us."

At the Al-Gosaibi Hotel, one of three five-star hotels that are packed with recent arrivals from Kuwait, a white Rolls-Royce convertible discharges its affluent



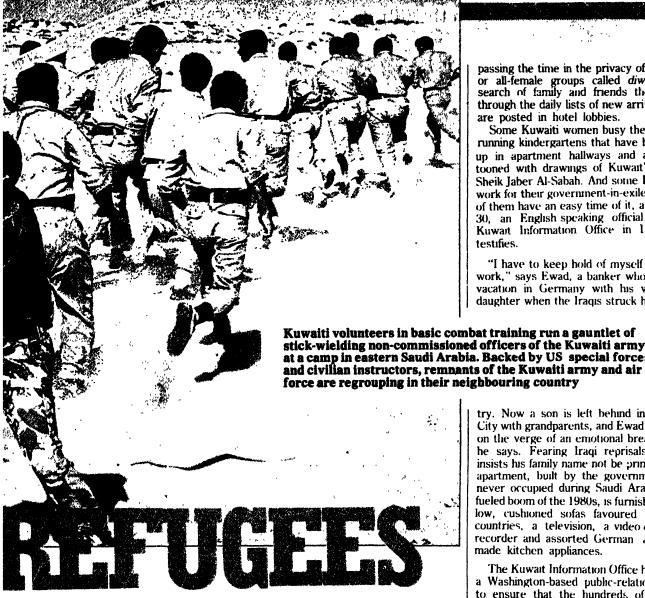
Some of the more than 300,000 exiled Kuwaitis in Saudi Arabia, such as these two men and a child, spend their time in five-star hotels in Dhahran. Generously supported by their government, the well-heeled refugees are provided with apartments and living allowances. Some brought their own servants



passengers. Many Kuwaiti women entrust their babies to Thai and Filipino maids who escaped with them. The maids walk the hotel corridors and lobbies with the plump infants tucked under their arms.

"In our country, really, we have everything," a veiled mother of two in her early 20s complains. "Living in a place that is not your own is not easy."

To ease the discomfort the Kuwait treasury, through its investment arm in London, stakes the new arrivals in Saudi Arabia to a week in a posh hotel, then gives them a \$1,300 furniture allowance, about \$500 a month for rent and a monthly living allowance of about \$700 for a family of four.



passing the time in the privacy of all-male or all-female groups called diwania In search of family and friends they page through the daily lists of new arrivals that are posted in hotel lobbies.

Some Kuwaiti women busy themselves running kindergartens that have been set up in apartment hallways and are festooned with drawings of Kuwait's ruler, Sheik Jaber Al-Sabah. And some Kuwaitis work for their government-in-exile. Not all of them have an easy time of it, as Ewad, 30, an English speaking official of the Kuwait Information Office in Dhahran. testifies.

"I have to keep hold of myself through work," says Ewad, a banker who was on vacation in Germany with his wife and daughter when the Iraqis struck his coun-

at a camp in eastern Saudi Arabia. Backed by US special forces

try. Now a son is left behind in Kuwait City with grandparents, and Ewad's wife is on the verge of an emotional breakdown, he says. Fearing Iraqi reprisals, Ewad insists his family name not be printed. His apartment, built by the government but never occupied during Saudi Arabia's oilfueled boom of the 1980s, is furnished with low, cushioned sofas favoured in Arab countries, a television, a video cassette recorder and assorted German and USmade kitchen appliances.

The Kuwait Information Office has hired a Washington-based public-relations firm to ensure that the hundreds of foreign newsmen reporting from Saudi Arabia receive a constant stream of material on everything from Iraqi atrocities to the Kuwaiti air force in training.

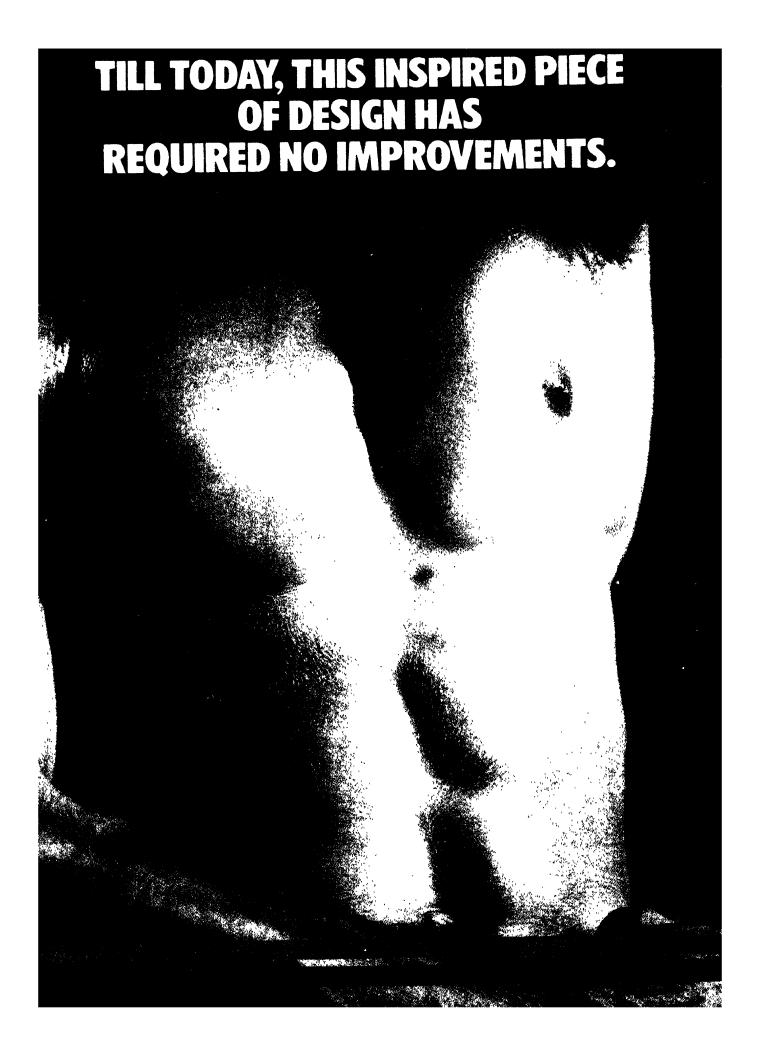
Running from their Iraqi-occupied country, Kuwaitis cross into Saudi Arabia at a rate of 200 to 300 a day, often arriving in luxury cars, such as this Rolls-Royce parked outside a refugee-filled hotel in Dhahran. The influx of wealthy Kuwaitis has created a small economic boom in some Saudi cities

Before the August invasion, the World Bank ranked Kuwait as one of the world's 15 wealthiest countries—largely because of its oil reserves and investments—with a yearly income averaging about \$13,400 a person. Some economists, factoring in the large numbers of low-paid foreign workers who do menial jobs, say the figure for Kuwaitis alone should be considerably higher.

With oil reserves of at least 90 billion barrels Kuwait has invested its riches in everything from chains of filling stations in Europe to resort developments and a railroad in the United States.

Most exiled Kuwaitis here spend their days visiting Saudi friends, shopping or





NEITHER HAS THIS.



he other day, the man from Continental Aktiengesellschaft was here.

Stern, hawk-eyed and very German, he earns his living solely by designing car tyres for Mercedes Benz.

He took one long look (a full six hours by our watch) at the R-90 and, uncharacteristically, broke into a grin.

The R-90 had come through with flying colours.

There wasn't one air bubble in evidence, not a single hairline crack. The contours were perfect. The sipes even more so.

The square-shouldered design gave the R-90 a distinct air of confidence, of quiet strength. The grooves, set deep, promised a stronger grip at high speeds over rain-swept highways and dusty, winding country roads.

When, finally, the man from Continental test-drove on the R-90, what did he have to say?

You're right. He said exactly what lakhs of car-owners have always believed about the R-90.

"It's a miracle!"

A MIRACLE OF DESIGN.





Many Kuwaiti refugees have escaped to Saudi Arabia with their Filipino maids, as did these two mothers in a high-rise apartment in Dhahran, where the maids are caring for their infants. Generously subsidised, exiled Kuwaitis are among the wealthiest of the world's more than 15 million refugees

To help convince world opinion that Kuwait is a country and cause worth dying for, the government-in-exile has hired seven international public-relations firms. The largest of them, Hill & Knowlton Inc. of New York, packages pages of fact sheets, video cassettes and photographs on such topics as Kuwait's "top gun" fighter pilots, who regularly are available for interviews alongside their aging A-4 Skyhawks, emblazoned with the slogan, "Free Kuwait".

Most of the Kuwaiti air force escaped in the first hours of the Iraqi invasion and is training today under US and Saudi supervision.

Some young male Kuwaiti refugees have volunteered for military training at a base in eastern Saudi Arabia run by

remnants of the Kuwaiti army and by US Special Forces.

At a desert camp about 600 Kuwaiti youths are being trained for house-to-house street fighting by Kuwaiti army officers. The 30-days course is heavy on military drill and martial arts, but some recruits say they have yet to fire their G-3 rifles after three weeks of training.

Col Saadi Faleh, camp commander, calls the trainees "civil guards" who may be sent to the Saudi-Kuwaiti border. About 1,000 members of Kuwait's former army are now on the "front lines," says Faleh, a veteran of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Fearful that Kuwaiu pilots might touch off a war with an attack on Iraqi positions. the Saudi Ministry of Defence does not allow armed training missions by the "Free Kuwait" air force, according to American

advisers at an air base in eastern Saudi Arabia.

The US, British, French and Saudi pilots regularly fly combat air patrols armed with air-to-air missiles and cannons. "We don't want to ignite a war unless it's firm everybody is ready," says Lt Col Abdulla Sultan, 40, deputy operations officer of the Kuwaiti detachment. "If we ignite it and everybody is relaxed, they might turn against us."

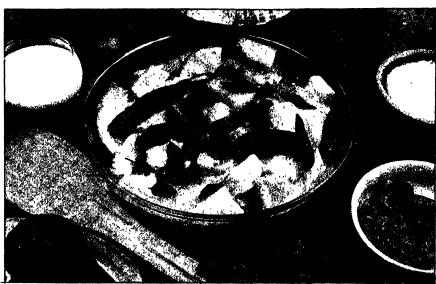
For now the relatively relaxed atmosphere keeps Dhahran's shopping malls and supermarkets brimming with Kuwaiti refugees.

Across the 15-mile King Fahd Causeway in nearby Bahrain an Americaneducated businessman surveys the raucous scene after his Kuwaiti cousins arrive at his apartment with tales of horror and tons of belongings. "They're my relatives," he says, "so I have to put up with them."

(National Geographic News Service)

Gourd and Marrow Vegetable Curry

Because of their annoying simplicity the humble gourds and marrows have always been looked down upon. Many members of my family as well as friends have turned up their noses at the mere mention of their name. Yet they can be converted into some of the most elusive



British	Metric	Ingredients	Americar			
2 <u>1</u> lb	1 kg	gourds and marrows, any kind	2 <u>1</u> k			
7 oz $(1\frac{1}{3} \text{ cups})$	200 g	ghee	7 cup			
1 pt (2 cups)	300 ml	water	1½ cups			
	si	nge-fry masala 1				
1 tsp	3.75 g	mustard seed (small)	1 tsp			
	si	nge-fry masala 2				
1 tsp	2.75 g	nigella (<i>kalonji</i>)	1 tsp			
1 tsp	4.25 g	fenugreek seed				
1 tbsp	6 g	coriander powder	1 tbsp			
1 tbsp	6 g	chilli powder				
25	25	curry leaves	25			
1 tbsp	5 g	turmeric powder	½ tbsp			
	fo	ollow-up masala				
6	6 gr	een chillies, slit lengthwise	.6			
2 tsps	10 g	salt, to taste	2 tsps			
during	-cooking	masala (creamed in bi	ender)			
6	6	yolk of eggs	6			
11 oz	300 g	yoghurt	1½ cups			
1 tsp	5 g	sugar	1 tsp			
tbsp	3.5 g	cornflour	½ tbsp			

but delectable meals, a derivative from the Southern and Gujarati kitchens. Here is one of them, a favourite with vegetarians.

Gourds and marrows of any kind, including squash, may be used here. Zucchini (tori) and courgetts, may also be included.

Serves 4-5

Cooking Time: 30-35 minuces

Method

The gourds and marrows should be peeled and cut into squares, rectangles, oblongs and thick juliennes. Keep aside.

Cream the yoghurt and yolk of eggs, sugar and cornflour in a blender for 10-20 seconds and keep aside.

Bring ghee to high heat. Add the singe-fry masala 1. When it splutters add singe-try masala 2 and after a few seconds of stirring add the cut gourds and stir fry for 5-8 minutes. Add the follow-up masala and stir fry for a minute or two, take off the heat. Add water, bring to boil and cook for 10-15 minutes till the extra water has evaporated. Take off from heat and add the during cooking masala slowly and stir. When properly mixed, simmer on moderate heat for 10-15 minutes stirring now and then till the ghee appears on the top and the vegetables are done. The consistency should be creamy. Check salt. Add the finishing masala and turn off the heat.

Transfer to a white serving bowl and add the garnish masala.

Serve with fluffy boiled rice.

NOTE: If asafoetida is not available or is not agreeable, substitute by 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of garlic through press.

7 DAYS

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Baaghi: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442)-4 shows

Salman Khan and debutante Nagma are the lead pair. The film is directed by Deepak Shivdasanı and the music is by Anand Miland. Bahaar Aane Tak: New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147)-4 shows.

A musical romance, starring Rupa Ganguly, Sumeet Saigal,

Navin Nischal, Tarıq Shah and Moon Moon Sen. The film is directed by Tariq Shah and the music is by Rajesh Roshan.

 Ekdin Achanak: Nandan (AJC) Bose Road)—3, 6 A Mrinal Sen film, starring

Shreeram Lagoo, Shabana Azmi, Aparna Sen, Rupa Ganguly, Anil Chatterjee and Arjun Chakraborty. Kanoon Ki Zanjeer: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road;

242266)-4 shows. Dharmendra, Jaya Prada, Raj Babbar, Swapna, Anupam Kher, Iftekar, Preeti Sapru and Om Shivpuri are the chief attractions. The film is directed by P. Lakshman

and the music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal. • Pyar Ka Devta: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138),



Michael Douglas and Charlie Sheen in Wall Street

Salman Khan and Chandni in Sanam Bewafa



Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 365108), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Malancha (Regent Park).

Directed by K. Bapaiah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the film stars Mithun Chakraborty, Madhuri Dixit, Rupa Ganguly, Shakti Kapoor, Moushumi Chatterjee and Kader Khan.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090). Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757), Khanna (Acharya Prafulia Chandra Road; 552932), Mitra (Bidhan Saranı; 551133), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road; 355059), Madhuban (Regent Park).

A love story interspersed with actions, the film stars Salman Khan and debutante Chandm. Others co-starring are new find Kanchan. Puneet Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Danny and Pran. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh-Kishor.

Shiva: Orient (Bentinck Street,

281917)—11.45, 2.45, 5.45, 8.45. A film by Ramgopal Varma, starring Nagarjuna as Shiva. Also in the cast are Amala, Raghuvaran, Paresh Rawal and Girija Shankar Thanedaar: Ehte (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383)—4 shows.

Directed by Raj Sippy, the film stars Jeetendra, Java Prada. Sunjay Dutt and Madhuri Dixit. The music is by Bappi Lahıri.

Bengali Films

 Ahankaar: Sree (Bidhan Saranı; 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road: 350680), Ujiala (Russa Road; 478666), Ragini (Beliaghata Main Road; 363264)-3 shows.

Directed by Srikanta Guha Thakurta and with music by R.D.



Jogita Chandran

Burman, the main cast comprises Pasenjit, Debashree Roy, Utpal Dutt, Kali Banerice, Anup Kumar, Soumitra and Ranit Mullick

Special Events

20 January onwards: 3 pm-8

An exhibition of early drawings and sketches of Abanindranath Tagore, till January 30.

At Chitrakoot Art Gallery (55 Gariahat Road; 755314).

20 January: 4.30 pm

Calcutta Malayalee Association presents a Bharata Natyam recital by Jogita Chandran and the Malayalam drama, Puthiya Puranam (direction: Parakode Sasi).

At Vidya Mandir (Moira Street: 446420).

20 & 27 January: 6 pm

Anamika will stage the Hindi play, Is Paar Us Paar, directed by Mohit Sukla. The cast includes Yama Shroff, Birnal Lath, Nidhi Coomer, Ajay Mishra, Sunita Sengupta and Parthajit Mishra. At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street).

21 January: 6.30 pm
The Welfare Centre for the Mentally Handicapped presents a solo Kathak recital by Amita Dutt.

At Kala Mandir (48 Shakespeare Sarani; 449086). 22-25 January: 10.30 am-4 em

The Progressive Educational Techniques Society will organise a programme on innovative teaching methods with special emphasis on micro teaching. At USIS Auditorium (38 Chowr-

inghee Road).

23 January: 6.30 pm

Padatik presents the comedy play, Bibion Ka Madarsa, directed by Shyamanand Jalan. The cast in-cludes Shakil Khan, Pradip Roy,

Amita Dutt

Shampa Ghosh, Neetu Khilnani, B.M. Hada, Arun Sharma, Raju Khatnani and Semi Ahmed.

At Gyan Manch,

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5) Al-306 at 1915. Dep (5) Al-306 at 2020

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) Al-309 at 1910, Dep (6) Al-309 at 2025

London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (7) Al-132 1328 at 1230

* Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr. (4). SU-537 at 1625

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep (4) SU-538 at 1825

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanoi: Arr (2). SU-541 at 0755. Dep (2) SU-541 at 0905 Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr (2) SU-542 at 1755; Dep (2). SU-542 at 1905

Calcutta-Amman: Dep (5). RJ-185 at 0630

Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4). FJ-184

at 0800 Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4). SQ-

420 at 1310 Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-420 at

1210 Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep (2, 4, 7). IC-731 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 6). TG-314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-

313 at 1240. Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7). IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5). RA-214 at 1530.

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 6 7), IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5). RA-

213 at 1430. Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (1, 3, 5): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (6). IC-723 at 1240, Dep (daily): BG-092 at 1150 and BG-098 at 2020, Dep. (1, 4, 7):

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (6). IC-724 at 1500, Arr (1, 3, 5) IC-724 at 1600. Arr (daily): BG-091 at 1110 and BG-097 at 1940, Arr (1, 4, 7). BG-093 at 1620

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (6): IC-225 at 1330. Dep. (2, 5). BG-698 at 1355.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (6) IC-226 at 1550; Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1310

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (2) KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2). KB-105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2): Al-

101 at 0230. Deihi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Al-1328 at

Indian Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-263 at 0800 and IC-402 at 1730; Arr. (daily), IC-401 at 1240 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-176 at 0850 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr (daily); IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-265 at 1715; Arr. (daily): IC-266 at 2205

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6). IC-542 at 1040; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at 0915.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily): IC-271 at 1620; Arr. (daily): IC-272

at 2150. Calcutta-Guwahati: Qep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0830, Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at 1130, Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630.

Calcutta-Texpur-Jorha Calcutta: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 7); (C- Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266869, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

213 at 0805; Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 7). IC-213 at 1200.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-219 at 0810; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-220 at 1250 Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): 1C-269 at 1650, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-270 at 1910.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad; Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6) IC-270 at

Calcutta-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-259 at 1330; Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-260 at 1610

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (dally). IC-255 at 0740; Arr (daily). IC-256 at 1220.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 1305; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1635.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily). IC-410 at 0905; Arr. (daily), IC-409 at

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6). IC-265 at 0545; Arr. (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015.

Celcutta Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0545; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1235.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5): IC-243 at 1400, Dep. (daily): IC-241 at 0800, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-245 at 1000; Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 1000, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1450, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5): IC-244 at 1600, Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-246 at

Calcutte-Bagdogra; Dep. (daily): 1C-221 at 1300: Arr. (daily). IC-222

at 1520.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 7) IC-277 at 1745, Arr (1, 2, 7) IC-278 at 2215

Calcutta-Agartala-imphal: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-727 at 0530; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-728 at 1120 Calcutta-Agartala-Slichar: Dep (7): PF-729A at 0550; Arr (7): PF-730A at 1050

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3 5, 7). PF-701 at 1140, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7). PF-702 at 1615.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamaipur-Kallashahar-Agartala-Celcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6) PF-729 at 0550, Arr. (2, 4, 6) PF-730 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-701 at 1100; Arr. (2, 4, 6). PF-702 at 1715 Calcutta-Rourkela: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-715 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5). PF-716 at 0855.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep (2, 6): PF-709 at 0815; Arr (2. 6): PF-710 at 1840.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhet-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (4) PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (4), PF-710 at 1750.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu; Dep. (7): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (7): PF-710 at 1705.

Calcutta-Alzawi-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7):

2 m 12 m

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjari Calcutta and Calcutta Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta

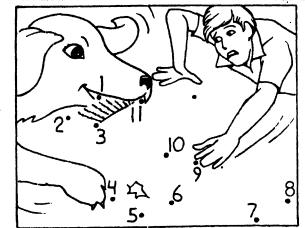
7 DAYS

PF-705 at 0915; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-706 at 1620. Calcutta-Agartela: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729A at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730A at 1410 Calcutta-Aizawi-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-705 at 0910 and PF-729B at 1310; Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-706 at 1255 and PF-730B at 1655. Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Ranchi-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0550; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1115. Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF- 717 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0745.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-707 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

Departure .		EASTERN RAILWAY		ival	i Den	erture	SOUTH-EASTERN	ERN Arrivo	
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3005	19-20	Amritaar Mail	8-05	3006	- -				
3003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Madras Mail	7-00	600
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8-00	800
	0.0	press via Gaya-Varanasi	.0.00	LOOL	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	285
		Dep—Tues, Thurs & Sat			8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	803
				8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	802	
	0.45	Arr—Wed Fri. & Sun.		0004	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex-	11-50	284
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304		14 00	press		20-
		press via Patna			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express	13-45	261
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		Arr-Tues Wed Thurs. Sat &			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	801
		Sun.			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	800
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via	7-45	841
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3039	20-55			3040	1		- Guwahati Express		
3039	20-55	Delhi Janata Express via	5-30	3040	ł		Saturday only		
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3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	1	14 10	Guwahati Weekly Express	10 40	
3021	22-00	Mithila Express	5-00	3022	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
2557	6-00	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	1				
5659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660		00.05	Thursday only	00.45	
3317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	_
3029	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030	1		Terminus Weekly Express		
3035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036	ł		(via Howrah & Visakhapatham)		
3031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032	ı		Saturday only		
3025	23-00	North Bihar Express	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	265
JOEU	20-00	DepWednesday	11-10	3020	ı		Superfast Express (via		
				1		Visakhapatnam & Madras)			
	Arr—Friday			1		Dep-Fri. & Sun			
3071 22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkly Express	6-00	3072	1		Arr—Tues. & Fri.			
		Dep-Tues. Thurs. & Sat			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	_
		Arr—Mon. Thurs. & Sat.		_	20/4	22.00	Weekly Express (via Howrah	22-10	
3015	9.55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	1				
2159	15-25	Chambal (Gwalior) Tri-	7-30	2160	l		& Cuttack)		
	weekly Superfast Express			f		Wednesday only	40 40		
	Dep-Thurs. Sat. & Sun.			_	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	267	
		Arr—Tues Wed. & Thurs.			Ī		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
1171 15-25	Shipra (indore) Express	7-30	1172	ł		& Cuttack)			
	10-23	Dep—Tues & Wed.	, 50	,2	1		Monday only		
					2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	_
207	15.05	Arr—Sat. & Sun.	7 00	2222			minus Weekly Express (via		
3327	15-25	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Ex-	7-30	3328	1		Howrah)		
		press					Thursday only		
		Dep & Arr—Mon. & Fri.				14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	260
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express	10-40	5050		14-10	Patna Weekly Express (via	13-43	200
		Dep & ArrSunday			l				
					1		Howrah)		
		Sealdah			1		Wednesday only		
14.60	10.00			0444	1		-		
3143	19-00	Darjeeling Mali	8-45	3144	1				
3153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154				_	
1151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152			round the clock information of		
3133	20-45	Mughal Saral Express via	12-50	3134	trains.	please di	al 203545-54 for in-coming train	s; 203535	-44 fc
	SBG Loop					nation. For information about			
103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104	Easter	and So	uth Eastern Reliways trains, die	203400	from
185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186		2 pm 22	weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm (u Bunda	WA

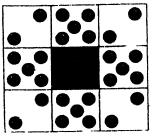
"JUNIOR WHIRL - Hal Kaufman



HEY, LEGGO! Hey, be a nice dog and all will be forgiven. To complete the picture, draw connecting lines dot to dot.

 SUM RHYME! Will someone please explain to me, if five plus eight times 43, 349 is not, then the answer must be what? Answer quickly

Answer is five hundred and tiffy-



TEST SKILL AT MARBLES

You will note that the number of marbles on each of the four sides of the box above totals 9. It is possible to remove four of these marbles (one from each side) and rearrange the rest so that those remaining also total 9.

indeed, it is then possible to remove four more marbles and once again have the remaining marbles total 9

marbles total 9.

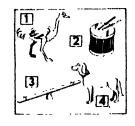
Just how can these totals be arranged?

That is to say, just how many marbles are to appear in compartments in each instance?

lis S. E. E. (seichem AS) inemyoloph First bruous its , A , f , A (seichem OS) tiek bruous e AIR FLAP! You are asked to puzzle out the word for an unhealthy air condition familiar to many big cities. Here's how: identify subjects below. Jot down first letter of names of subjects 1 and 3, and last letter of names of subjects 2 and 4. Juggle these letters for a four-letter word. What's that?

2 Way 20 1

SMOG (Subjects Ostrich, drum, seesaw dog)





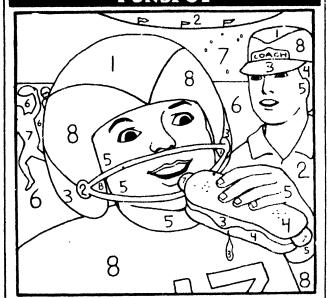




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Sign is missing 2 Cep is missing 3 Jacket is opened 4. Culfis are missing 5. Flashlight is missing 6. Flashlight is missing

FUNSPOT



HOT DOG! Hold that hot dog, guy — we're playing a game. Add colors neatly to scene: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown 5—Fiesh tones. 6—Lt. green 7—Dk. brown. 8—Lt. purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

REDACTOR

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.
Lozalpie suedismi gent coin



OUIZ - Neil O'Brien

ujoy Banerjee, Calcutta 14, reports

"Visva Bharati was the perfect setting for the quiz held as part of the East Zone Inter-University Youth Festival An overflowing audience at Singha Bhagha Bha van was witness to a battle royal between the four finalists - Jadavpur University Guwahati University hosts Visva Bharati and last year s all-India champs Institute of Technology (Benaras Hindu University) The defending champs swung into an early lead of five points with the others clustered together But once JU got their act together, they turned in one of their best performances in recent times to emerge comprehensive winners by 10 points ahead of IT, (BHU) JU were represented by Debkumar Mitra, Joydeep Mukhenee and Saumyadip Chowdhury Quizmasters Arun Banerjee and Dwijadas Bancriee did an excellent job at short notice JU and IT (BHU) now travel to Madurai for the inter-zonal contest in

Amar Kumar Das reviews "On the occasion of their fest, 'Becameet 90, Bengal Engineering College organised a quiz, in which overall 30 teams took part in the final we saw Barry O Brien as the quizmaster at his best His witty jokes, dancing with audio questions, was



11th Question: Politically what is the Ontario Experiment? (Rupen Banerjee, A 31/2 First Lane, Anandapuri, P.O. Nona Chandanpukur, 24 Parganas (N) 743102) Ans: To allow two or more minority parties to join forces to form a government

in spite of there being a major party with a demand to dissolve Parliament with an agreement that they would not go to the polls for a fixed period. This experiment was done by the Ontarlo Governor General in 1985.

enjoyed by the packed hall At the end of a closely fought quiz CU Informals and BRC E were tied Barry asked both the teams whether they wanted a tie-breaker or to be joint-winners CU Informals demanded a tie-breaker and BEC demanded jointwinners So the tie-breaker started And on the very first question (Q What's Mattri local marriage? Ans Ghar-Jamai), CU Informals were unable to answer and BEC answered it and emerged winners BEC E comprised Avik Paul, Rajesh Nandi and Nilanjan Basu "

Sumanta Sarkar Calcutta 40, asks 'What exactly was chivalry in Europe?"

Chivalry is the term given to the code of behaviour which governed the upper classes in Europe in the Middle Ages The idea originated in the 11th century when the Church began to take steps to soften the

roughness of the knight class, which was then becoming so important. A religious ceremony was evolved for the conferment of knighthood on a young man, who undertook to behave accord-



A knight in armour

ing to certain standards to protect the weak, attack evil doers and oppressors, and to use his sword against the enemies of Christendom Meanwhile, especially in the south of France, there was

growing up a purely secular tradition of chivalry which found its expression in the poems of the Troubadours This had an elaborate ritual of social behaviour, especially in the relation of the knight with ladies. By the end of the 12th century these two strands, religious and secular, finally merged, they find their best expression and were most fully elaborated in the verse romances, of which the cycle concerning the legendary King Arthur and his knights was the most iniportant. The boy of the knightly class would be educated in these romances and the code they embodied from early youth, and so learned how to behave in society and what were his duties to members of his own and other classes

At its lowest chivalry could become the worst type of snobbery and classexclusiveness On the positive side it did mitigate the harshness of medieval warfare (special emphasis was laid, for instance, on the need for courteous treatment of prisoners-of-war), and it provided a civilised standard of conduct in everyday

Postscript: Some of you who have won 11th Question prizes have written to me that you have not received your prize Please contact The Telegraph Colour Magazine directly

QUESTIONS

1. Who is the author of One-Day-Wonders? (Ambalika Endow, Silchar

2. What does the abbreviation "Cantab" stand for? (Rakesh Verma, Belgharia).

3. Rat. cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog and pig—What is common to thëse animals? (Shekh Abdur Rab, Burdwan). 4. Which philosopher deecribed man as being no-thing more than "a biped

without feathers"? (G.Rajesh, Calcutta 25) 5. Who is the only batsman to remain not out on 99 in a Test match? (Mohan Kumar Agrawal, Bargarh) 6. Who played the title role in the film Mandela? (Sauray Mitra, Calcutta

7. Jane Austen wrote her first novel, Eleanor and Mananne in 1795. This was, however, not published till 1811 when it appeared enonymously. In between this period, she changed the name of the book which today remains

one of her best. What is the changed name? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcut-

ta 16). 8. Who got the first gold medal in the Beijing Asiad? (Nirveek Shattacharjee, Kharagpur 2).

9. In American theatre terminology who are 'atmosphere people'? (Anjanava Datta, Calcutta 31). 18. What is Queen Elizabeth II's family nickname? (Rahul Gupta, Cal-

> ANSWERS He Lillber.

cutta 26).

caregory. INDING 165 Kg in the 44 Kg

event. She got the gold by BURLINGION SUBULON OU a, Shing Fen of China in

, Sense and Sensibility. Ex Denny Glover. a. Gooff Boycott when he decided and selfage and selfage and selfage at 1979-80. Chalf .

12-year Chinese Calendar is named. פנוסג ההנוכני ש אששר ונו תום

Survit Geverator. Cambindge (Liniverally). Lineyell are the animals

INNER EYE Dejan Daruwalla

RIES March 21--April 20 House, property, parents, in-laws, loans, investments and hot love fulfill the week in romance, remem-ber love is the key to life and living Deals, negotiations and transactions come through Shift, transfer and commuting are indicated. No serious health complications are foreseen

AURUS April 21-May 20 Dramatic events connected with love, marriage, property, collabora-tions, power and position pile up rapidly You will have the right measure of romance Collaborations and business deals are favourably signified. Health poses a few hassles but you do get over them Commuting, trips and a major move are in the offing Kids give joy

EMINI May 21 -June 20 The focus this week is on journeys collaborations and new ventures Scholars, researchers, sportsmen and salesmen do well Romance will be enough to keep you busy Plenty of shuttling and shifting is indicated. Due to overwork you run the risk of overstrain You will take time out to beautify the home

ANCER June 21-July 20

Love, creativity, loans, funds, expenses and amusements lie in store for you Romance will be available in plenty Money, contracts, assignments and commitments await you There is no thing seriously wrong with your health, so just go ahead and have a ball You will have time to relax, attend to parties and dinners, and socialise happily

July 21-August 21 The home and the outside world clamour for attention and thus keeping a balance will be your main problem But it should make life doubly exciting Buying, selling, collaborations and business transactions are definitely on the cards A few health problems are indicated, but these can be resolved Contacts and correspondence keep you on your toes. The home and family are most certainly included in the weeks main trends



















Your work journey neighbours and a lot of moving and bustling around somehow appear to be interlinked, making you spin and move constantly Romance will keep you happy and help relieve work pressures. You will be in for commitments, contracts assign ments and perks. Travel will be important and necessary as well Renovations buying, selling chil-dren, parents, decoration and ceremonies keep you busy

IBRA Sept 23--Oct 22 Success in ventures, more money and honey, children, high voltage activities hobbies and entertain ment signal a bright beginning Romance will be exciting and perhaps wind up with an official engagement or even wedding bells You will be fit and fine While moving or commuting turn on your considerable charm. The home front is marked by peace and beauty Expect visitors to drop in

BIRTHDAYS

January 20

You have to work harder and exercise patience That done, there is no reason why you should not achieve You will have much to do with family property, elders, investments. buying and selling Get every-thing done in writing

January 21

Your wishes will be granted after a delay and so you must not let up on courage and confidence. People could behave in a strange manner A tough but not an impossible birthyear

January 22

Yes, a topping good year no matter what your position, sta-tus, colour, caste or creed. Children, grandchildren, tove. hobbies and entertainment are fevourably signified. Travel and money will be there in equal me-BBUFOS.

January 23

One wish fulfilment is certain for

Scorpios Be ready to sacrifice also Give your loved ones a bit ot freedom and independence On the bright side, your sincerity and intelligence will win friends

January 24

Expect quite a few changes on the job and health frontiers Listen to your wellwishers. A medicat checkup is a must if you are feeling low and uncomfortable Rest and meditation will certainly help This is not a trouble-free birthyear

January 25

The goodies of life will be yours Learn to leash in your expenses Safeguard your health Folks will play on your feelings it would be best to discern between friends and flatterers

January 26

Go all out for the booty and the prize. Your charisms and imagination will slay the opposition. This is a birthyear to take chances and come out well on top. Love, status, property, alliance and marriage can all be yours. Play your cards close to your chest

CORPIO

Oct 23--Nov 22 You will get your work done and that in cludes property as well Go ahead and conquer the wide world Money starts pouring in and there is a lot more to come You will swoon over your be loved Health improves and so does your all round performance A home away from home is a distinct possibility. The ac cent on the home and family

AGITTARIUS Nov 23- Der 20

Journey ceremony, expenses import export trading commission and a little bit of fun are indicated Secret meetings and liaisons are possible Finance promises plenty of action and you will realise your dues next month. You will have your full measure of romance Travel includes hectic correspondence and calls. A little health care is advisable. A few changes on the home from is almost certain

APRICORN

Der 21 Jan 19 Fun, frolic money in the kitty and much more to come in the next fortnight Financial jugglery loans, funds, security, mortgage and recovery of dues are the other salient features of the week Your health remains in perfect shape Travel will be vital and useful Be prepared for major changes in the home and family

QUARIUS

Jan 20 Feb 18

Your ambition and performance will help you Do reach out to people and places in financial matters you will succeed in making your presence felt. In romance your heart will find an answering echo in that of another Back, stomach and chest problems may worry you, so a medical checkup is advisable Your work will de mand an office in the home as well

ISCES

Feb 19- March 20 Funds, capital, expenses journey and introspection are the weeks highlights in romance, love eventually triumphs Travel s likely and necessary as well Extra health care will do no harm isits to friends and relatives are likely Touches of beauty and hospitality and grace will be in complete evidence on the domestic sector

COMICS



















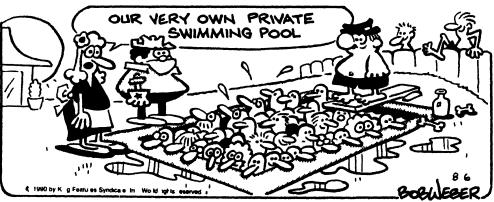


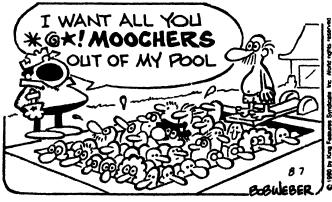


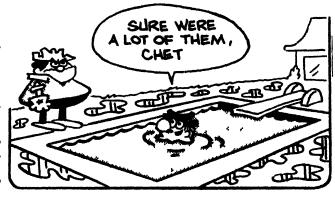
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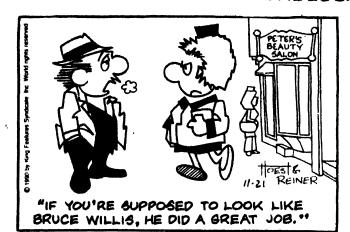






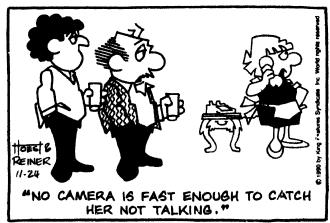


THE LOCK HORNS



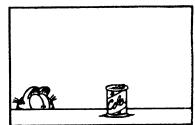






GARFIELD By Jim Davis











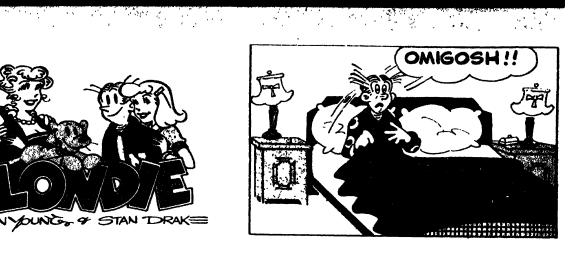




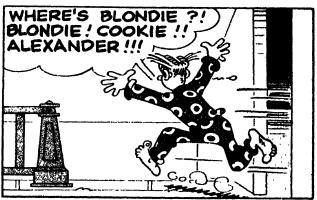




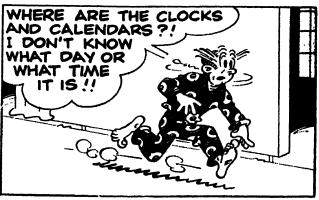
















CANDID CAMERA



The law may be an ass, but is it poetic justice to have **Subramanian Swamy** sitting in the chair and holding his tongue, so to speak? Quite an arresting picture he makes. Photograph by JAGDISH YADAV



THE HOTTEST SPORT THIS WINTER.



ENJOY THE FEELING OF FLYING IN THE AIR AT MANY THOUSAND FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL. WALK THROUGH THE SNOW OR ZIP DOWN A 3 KILOMETRE SLOPE IN LESS THAN A FEW MINUTES. SO, CONSULT THE GANG AND MAKE A PLAN TO COME TO AULI. ANY TIME BETWEEN DECEMBER AND MARCH. IT'S WHERE THE ACTION IS. AND REMEMBER, YOU NEED BRING NOTHING EXCEPT YOUR PERSONAL NECESSITIES. YOURSELF AND YOUR SPIRIT FOR ADVENTURE ALONG. WE'LL PROVIDE THE REST. THE SKIING EQUIPMENT. QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED LEARNERS. WELL FURNISHED ACCOMMODATION. AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO'D

LIKE TO COME ON YOUR OWN, REMEMBER, THE DETAILS ARE WAITING AT YOUR CLOSEST U.P. TOURISM OFFICE.







CHANDRALOK BUILDING, 36, JANPATH, NEW DELHI PH 3322251



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CHANDRALOK BUILDING, 36, JANPATH, NEW DELHI PH.: 3322251



POST MORTEM

Novel Bonanza

The Children's Special (November 11) was a novel bonanza for the children. Even my one-year-old son was enthralled by the cute drawings, and sat gazing at them. Thank you for the marvellous treat.

Runa Chatterjee, Calcutta

■ I, a 20-year-old adult, relived my childhood a thousand times. The write-ups under 'When I am the PM' or 'When I grow up' showed just how aware the children are of what's happening in the country. The sketches stole my heart.

But then, haven't you forgotten something? The cover highlighted the plight of many children who could also have been fun-loving but were unfortunately forced into adulthood very early in life. Why didn't you record what they had to say about life? What are their aspirations? Can't something be done to create an awareness among the people?

This letter is a desperate plea for help before it is too late. These very children are going to be the future world citizens. Help them to know what it is like to have an ice-cream topped with cherries or what it is like to get lost in a maze of Enid Blyton stories. Let's start giving.

Saswati Mittra, Calcutta

The articles and drawings reflected the emotions, dreams, likes and dislikes of the innocent little darlings. But some of them reflected a maturity that seemed to be an influence of elders. The cover concept by Mukulika Akbar was praiseworthy. Your decision to have a children's issue once every year is good, but it would be even better to have one twice or thrice a year.

The poem by Sameer Gandotra (Ten years from now) and the article by Tilottama Ray Chaudhuri (When I am the PM) were excellent.

Sudipto Dey, Calcutta

■ These days, when everybody talks tall but does nothing, it made me glad to see such an issue. You may even invite the children to

describe their achievements, both academic and extra-curricular, which would encourage other kids to emulate them.

In this connection, I wish to convey my heartfelt greetings to Sreejata Chatterjee (5 years) who is lucky enough to have a father who has a "heart of gold and diamond eyes". Your father is also lucky to have a girl like you who must be made of gold, diamond and silver.

D.K. Roy, Calcutta

■ The issue brought out on the eve of Children's Day was a golden treasure for the children. Thanks to the judges for unveiling the children's talents to the readers of the Colour Magazine. Even the cover design expressed your concern for child abuse. Congratulations from my grand-daughter (6 years) and me.

Sunil Banerjee, Calcutta

- The contributions by and for the children were much more lively and interesting than your regular features. Anindo Sen, Calcutta
- I genuinely felt that these children have a lot to contribute to the future, provided they are given the opportunity to grow and breathe freely in an atmosphere that is not vitiated by dirty politics.

Monowara Begum, Calcutta

■ The sketches were far better than photographs of Asha-Pamella. We have learnt many things ourselves from the children's ideas. Politicians should feel ashamed to have created such a bad impression about themselves in the minds of 11 and 13-year-old children.

year-old children.

Joydeep Roy,
Ichapur, 24 Parganas
(W.B.)





CONTENTS

The Telegraph

3 FEBRUARY 1991



Chandra Swami is a godman who has a knack of staying in the headlines, whether it's through his hobnobbing with the international jet set, or his controversial deals, or in his latest avatar, as a negotiator for Prime Mimster Chandra Shekhar on Ayodhya.

A unique programme for children is taking shape in Jamshedpur, which carries the seeds of a future revolution in sports.

There's a time bomb ticking in Cameroon's lakes which could lead to further deaths.

SECTIONS

18 The Arts

19 Curry Curry Curry

20 7 Days

23 Junior Whirl

24 Quiz

25 Inner Eye

26 Comics

Around the World Cover, Rajesh Kumar

COVER STORY





is popular image is that of a high profile trickster, an uncrowned king stalking the secret lives of politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats. A mere mention of his name brings to mind numerous scandals, controversies and hush-hush deals involving the rich and the mighty. His influence is enormous and the list of his friends, acquaintances and clients reads like a veritable who's who of world personalities.

And yet he manages to retain an aura of mystery which a number of investigating agencies have tried to break in vain in their bid to nail him. On each occasion he has not only survived but has emerged stronger than ever before, consolidating his power base and widening his circle of influence in the process. Nemi Chand Jain Gandhi alias Chandra Swami, godman, tantrik, faith healer, confidential adviser, influence peddler, fixer private investigator, and now increasingly, negotiator, in essence, embodies the shift in the value systems of a rapidly changing Indian society where links with power are held in awe.

A key element in his personality is his

If ever there was a godman for sale, it is

Chandra Swami.

S. SRINIVASAN follows the trail of the shadowy sadhu, who uses his links with the rich and the powerful to great effect in his wheeling-dealing across the globe. His latest mission: to help his friend, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, on Ayodhya

ability to get quick and easy access to the people who matter. Whether it is heads of state, prime ministers or rich oil sheikhs, he can walk in and out of their offices and exclusive chambers with amazing ease. He draws his sustenance from these contacts and drops their names whenever he can. A journalist who was introduced to him casually while waiting for a friend at a five-star hotel in Delhi recalled how in a few minutes of conversation, Swami reeled off the names of several VVIPs. Noticing the scepticism, a close contact of the godman hastened to add that the godman was not only not lying, but was in fact on first name terms with them. His friends and acquaintances are legion: from Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and nearly half his Cabinet to former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Margaret Thatcher; from the incredibly wealthy Sultan of Brunei arguably the richest man in the world and the legendary arms dealer, Adnan Khashoggi, to Hollywood's gorgeous Elizabeth Taylor and macho Sylvester Stallone.

But what is so special about the Swami

that draws such a galaxy of names? According to one of his close confidants the godman, who comes from a middle class background, is essentially a businessman at heart, dealing subtly in religious beliefs and faiths. He realises that every individual who reaches the pinnacle of success faces loneliness and insecurity sometime or the other. The Swami exploits the complex psychology that is built around such insecurity to the hilt people close to him reveal. If the person some is western, then some would say prey esoteric occultism is thrown in to give an onental touch A practising tantrik Swami

The Swami likes the good life... He stays in the best of hotels and enjoys the best of environment... He always sits on a tigerskin, clutching a remote controlled call hell

NER OR S

here are essentially three major 1 charges against Chandra Swami The first relates to the St Kitts affair in which Ajeya Singh, son of former Prime Minister V P.Singh, was accused of holding secret bank accounts. It was alleged that Chandra Swami played a crucial role and acted as an intermediary between government officials and diplomats. The CBI, which recorded this as a case of forgery, auspected the godman's involvement But beyond issuing arrest warrants against a senior official of the enforcement directorate, who had in the meantime obtained anticipatory ball, the bureau has failed to make much headway because of lack of adequate evidence

The second case relates to his mvolvement with Surmami Indians who were under pressure because of a change of regime in that country Chandra Swamı is alleged to have offered to bail out the Indian businessmen and invest their funds elsewhere Lister, some of the non-resident and migrant Indians lodged a protest with the Union government, saying they had been cheated. Apprehending that he might be arrested, Chandra Swam decided to stay out of the country till he was sure of getting anticipatory ball. Subsequently, the Delhi high court not only upheld this order but also rejected the enforcement directorate's plea that the godman should be taken to task for not responding to its earlier summons.

The third case revolves around the purchase of the famous Harrods departmental store involving Tiny Rowland. British undustrualist and chairman of the Observer group of London. Chandra Swams is alleged to have taken money from the industrialist on

the promuse that he would ensure that the store was not taken over by one of Rowland's own directors. As soon as it heard this, the enforcement directorate, which deals with foreign ex-change violations, wanted to find out why Chandra Swand had not repetiated the money to India if he had his deed received any with payment. It was in this case that the editor of The Illustrated Weekly, Pritish Manity, and another journalist managed to topp Chandra Swams. In the course of the interview, Swami is reported to have boasted about his supernatural powers and even threatened to punish Nandy without knowing that the editor was in fact one of the interviewers. Cha Swami's associate, Marnaji, later thad to explain this away by maying that the godman did not always use his signer-natural powers. "Who would have imagned that a man of this statute . Pritish Nandy - would chest high? " he asked.

According to Mamaji, all the dages against Chandra Swami are false and that in the course of time, everything will be cleared. He denies that Sun has approached the government an "We will adopt a legal view and prefer to go through the courts". then why was the godman so relied in then why was the godman so reins to come back to India? Mamaji's son is that V.P. Singh had a vene going against them though Class Swarm himself claims he did not wis return to a "regime run by sinjary Rangardiess of what Swarm Manaji might claim shout sit in their influence with the present.

economy in Colla, that, at the morning, agencies to not belon

claims to have gained rare insight into the subject

Chandra Swami, though a trained tantrik often falls back on the advice of pro fessional astrologers, palmists and avurved vaids to embellish his considerable talents

If there is anyone who knows Chandra Swamı really well, it is Mr Aggarwal, alias 'Mamaji Originally a cloth dealer he is said to be the brains behind the godman Introduced to Chandra Swami through a nephew during the height of the Janata experiment in the late Seventies, Mamaji describes his relationship with the godman as that of a "teacher and disciple, of father and son' He had also served as the Swa mi's secretary and claims that there is "no aspect of the Swamiji's life" that he is not aware of It was Swamijis outlook to wards religion - 'his creed is non violence and truth and it cuts across all religions' - that first attracted him

According to Mamaji, Chandra Swami is blessed with 'supernatural psychic ener gy', which he uses to give spiritual' enlightenment' to others 'You can see beyond your life through the eyes of Swa min claims Maman He feels his Swami n's real talents are not being appreciated in his country, whereas elsewhere in the world he is a much-feted man While admitting that the public image of the god man has taken a beating over the years, he is quick to point out, 'If you decipher each of these adjectives —trickster wheeler dealer, etc - which are being freely attached to his name, you will not find any sequence They are supposed to be based on particular incidents. But even the gov ernment agencies have failed to come up with anything against them "But then why are the newspapers printing such stuff? Because they want to increase their cir

culation They are maligning a saint be cause it makes good copy. He has developed several high-ranking contacts in the course of his travels to 180 countries over 20 years. That does not make him a wheeler-dealer

Yet, amid his daily routine of praying to Goddess Durga — one thing he never misses — he finds time for favour seekers, sadhus and ministers from the Union Cabinet, the most frequent among them being Subramanian Swamy and Satya Prakash Malviva And all the while, phone calls keep flying between the Swami and the Prime Minister's Office, where he now has a good friend in Chandra Shekhar, according to Mamaji People wait for hours and often have to go away without meeting him Even Raj Babbar could manage only a "minute of darshan" after waiting hours, according to Ashok Gandhi

Despite the large number of people he meets everyday he never forgets a face or a name Together with a glib tongue and

an agile mind, Chandra Swami is blessed with a phenomenal memory. He can recall the exact time, date and place of his meeting with any person. A journalist was stunned when the godman not only told him he had met him 12 years ago, but also named the periodical with which he was working at the time. The journalist himself had long forgotten the encounter.

all and slightly paunchy Chandra Swami wears a characteristic fixed smile on his face. His personality is carefully groomed and preserved. In keeping with his saintly image, he prefers to wear a long saffron robe in public. He has a working knowledge of English, Spanish, Latin, French, Hindi and Telugu besides Tiptoi, a Brunei dialect, thanks to his association with the Sultan of Brunei. Chandra Swami charms his audience in his very first meeting. He has a natural gift of the gab and most of his meetings are arranged on a one-to-one basis for maximum effect. According to a knowledgeable person, Chandra Swami has a commonsense approach to most problems. He uses his native intelligence to arrive at conclusions quickly.

Although a strict vegetarian—he avoids even onions—and a teetotaller, good food remains one of his weaknesses. Even while living far away in the marvellously elegant yacht of the famous arms dealer,

Adnan Khashoggi, the Swami used to get his supply of vegetarian food. He often mentions this in his conversations with his confidants.

In fact, the Swami likes the good life. He lives in the posh Safdarjung Enclave in the palatial house owned by former wrestler and film actor Dara Singh. He travels mostly by air and has been around the globe several times.

He stays in the best of hotels and enjoys the best of environment. He always sits on a tigerskin, clutching a remote controlled call bell. There is a small

He realises that every individual who reaches the pinnacle of success faces loneliness and insecurity some time or the other. The Swami exploits the complex psychology that is built around such insecurity to the hilt

makeshift exchange manned by his disciples. His secretary is a strapping young man called Mammu, who is one of his cousins. The godman does not lead a very disciplined life, often getting up quite late. At 40, he has a problem with his blood pressure which makes it difficult for him to maintain his busy schedule.

Even after attaining sanyas, why does he lead such a lavish life? His argument is that to attain sainthood one need not live in deprivation. His definition of sainthood is "one whose innermost thoughts are pure and pious".

People close to Chandra Swami claim that he believes in charity and has been donating lavishly to the needy. Mamaji, who deals with Chandra Swami's financial affairs, claims that his Swamiji does not own even a single paisa. Everything is owned by the tax exempt trust which earns nearly Rs 12 lakh every year. He says Chandra Swami does not hold any foreign accounts and his expenses abroad are taken care of by his numerous admirers. The gorgeous Elizabeth Taylor is one of them. Liz had a severe backache problem and was told that a Swami from India could cure it. Chandra Swami reportedly gave her some medicines which did put an end to her problem. But according to a source, the medicine was actually prepared by Brahaspati Dev Triguna, the world famous vaid. The vaid has now fallen

Chandra Swami in his latest avatar as the Prime Minister's unofficial representative on Ayodhya



out with Chandra Swami and is working with Maharshi Mahesh Yogi.

Pamella Bordes was another frequent caller on the Swami. The Hollywood superstar, Sylvester Stallone, also once rung up the sadhu to seek his blessings before embarking on a new project. Quite unbelieveably, the Iron Lady of Britain, Margaret Thatcher, was also impressed by him after he converted her son into a vegetarian through a month-long therapy. Rubbing shoulders as he does with the beautiful and the glamorous, the question that is often asked is, "What about the Swami's sex life?" According to people close to him, his reply has always been, "I have never felt the urge".

Born into a middle-class family in Barot, Rajasthan, among two sisters and five brothers, the youngest offspring Nemi Chand had an ordinary childhood. He was despatched by his father to his relatives in Hyderabad where he had his school education. However, even his close relations cannot throw much light on his early years. One of his cousins recalls Chandra Swami's difficult and deprived childhood because of a famine that swept the nation, but cannot give any more details. Others in the family, though, claim he had a comfortable time. Nemi Chand's paternal uncle was a treasurer with the erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad, and after a while even his father shifted to the twin city. According to Ashok Gandhi, a cousin, the family was deeply religious. Nemi Chand was the brightest in the family. "If you come to Hyderabad, I'll show the shields he won. He was an excellent debator and bagged many prizes," says he, proudly. But Nemi Chand did not study beyond matriculation. He did what is called the pre-university certificate in Hyderabad.

Young Nemi Chand had his heart in politics and in the "welfare of the people". His natural choice was the Congress(I) because it was the most "nationalist party" and suited his "welfare-minded" psyche. It was here that he came in close contact with P.V. Narasimha Rao. Nemi Chand quickly rose to become district general secretary of the Youth Congress(I) in Hyderabad at the age of 17 by impressing Rao, who was then president of the party's state unit, with his enthusiasm. But a year later, Nemi Chand disappeared from Hyderabad. He claimed he spent the period doing deep penance in the Terai in Nepal. He then went to Varanasi and learnt tantric tricks from the famous Gopinath Kaviraj and resurfaced three years later in the Champaran district of Bihar. There he organised a "Sahastra Chandi Yagna", of which the chief minister, Kedar Pandey, was patron. Several prominent personalities, including L.N. Mishra and the owner of a powerful publishing group,

THE SWAMI'S SAYINGS

The state of the s

Wints has the gift of the gab.

His views on religion and politics (which he mines ficiety) and friends (famous and safamous) make interesting reading. A sample:

Hi am a saint to whom Ram and Ravan

all am a seint to whom Ram and Ravan both come.—On his links with Pamella Bordes.

Wi made her lose weight.— Of Elimbeth Taylor.

Mein to chale akela, khud he guru khud he chela. I bow before none. My president is Lord Shankar and my prime minister is Durga.

Life is the biggest universal truth. Life is like a journey. Like water which is constantly on the move to remain pure, so with a sadhu.

How can politics and religion be delinked? Look at the history of India. I am the descendant of Vashishtha and Vishwamitra. Today, people are trying to divorce religion from the political process. I will not tolerate this. Religion and politics are like body and soul. But the unfortunate thing is that religion has been given the backseat and communal politics has come into prominence... Even Mahatma Gandhi sang "Raghupati Raghava" when he went out to fight the British.—March, 1988.

■Why should Ram's greatness be confined to Ayodhya? Ram is much greater than that.— March, 1990.

■I have held discussions even with the vice-chancellor of Devabund University, who has also endorsed my view that a Ram temple should be built.—January, 1991.

were on the reception committee.

Close on the heels of these initial successful forays came Nemi Chand's first big break when he managed to get access to Jayaprakash Narayan through the Rajya Sabha member, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. JP, then at the peak of his political career, is said to have been influenced by Nemi Chand, and the young man's fortunes

According to Mamaji, Chandra Swami is blessed with "supernatural psychic energy". 'You can see beyond your life through the eyes of Swamiji'

soared. Since then he has never looked back. As his reputation spread far and wide, Nemi Chand got his first invitation to go abroad from a group of Gujarati businessmen in Africa. This was his first foreign visit. By then, he had learnt that he needed to be a Brahmin to be a genuine sadhu. Nemi Chand knew the limitations of the caste structure in India too well to realise that as'a Jain he would never be accepted in the innermost circle of saints. He quietly changed his name and since has come to be known as Chandra Swami.

His tour of Africa marked Chandra Swami's entry into the fast lane. In the early Seventies when Sanjay Gandhi was fast emerging on the political map of India, Chandra Swamı was introduced to him by one of his cousins. Sanjay was apparently impressed by the Swami and he, in turn, introduced him to his mother. Indira Gandhi's greatest worry at that time, according to an informed source, was to 'take care' of the then Union home minister, Prakash Chandra Sethi, who had emerged as the second most powerful person in her Cabinet. Mrs Gandhi reportedly learnt that Sethi was conducting a yagna in Ujjain and is reported to have remarked that this needed to be countered. Chandra Swami offered his services and did his own vagna. Soon thereafter, a series of developments took place, resulting in the downfall of Sethi. Chandra Swami's stock with Mrs Gandhi soared and he started frequenting the Prime Minister's official residence.

Given Chandra Swami's proximity to Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, his reputation as a skilful and persuasive negotiator and his saffron robe, it was hardly surprising that his services should have been sought to help solve the Ram Janmabhooomi dispute, and in the process take the wind out of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's sail.

In fact, as soon as he returned home from his last trip abroad, one of his first acts was to dash off to Ayodhya. The officials of the Enforcement Directorate who wanted to arrest him on certain charges of Fera violation were left twid-

dling their thumbs as the godman not only managed to get an anticipatory bail and avoid arrest but also defied official directions to appear before them for an interrogation: he replied to the government summons saying he was busy holding talks in Ayodhya. As indeed he was. Chandra Swami quickly called a meeting of sadhus in Ayodhya including Mahant Nritya Gopal Das. Soon there was speculation as to who had authorised the godman to conduct the talks. While officials in the home and finance ministries fretted and fumed it signalled the arrival of Chandra Swami as a behind-the-scenes negotiator for the government. Chandra Swami himselt has been telling the Press that "I did not go to Ayodhya at the instance of Chandra Shekhar. Once a cordial atmosphere is created and a solution is in sight then I will speak to the Prime Minister"

The strategy of Chandra Swamı is no different than what the Congress(I) government tried with the use of Swami Saroopanand and Vishwanath Pratap Singh more or less repeated with a few sadhus from Ayodhya. The target is, of course, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and attempts are being made to wean away the sadhus whose only motivation is religion and not politics. Therefore, Chandra Swami has been repeatedly telling his audience that "If the VHP tries to solve the problem without dabbling in politics I will be the first one to support it". The two-fold objective is to spread the word that VHP was political and the thinking that it would go down well with moderate Hindus who would like to have a temple in Ayodhya but would not like to vote to power a political party on that single plank. Chandra Swami has also been repeatedly saying that he has nothing against the Muslims, but at the same time has been adding that Hindus will be unhappy if a temple is not built.

Chandra Swami has undoubtedly been meeting a cross-section of the people involved in the negotiations. He made a whirlwind tour of the country and even went down South to meet the Shankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peeth. He held two rounds of talks with S.S. Owaisi of the BMAC in which he gave his formula for a solution. Simultaneously, he has been in touch with government officials in the home ministry and the minister of state for home, Subodh Kant Sahay.

While Chandra Swami with his own private secretariat has been holding parleys with the groups involved in the dispute, his added advantage has been his friendship with several influential Arab and other Muslim leaders abroad. Besides, he is also involved in field-level activities such as organising akharas in Allahabad. According to one of his close confidants, he has a remarkable ability to influence people at a personal level. He has, in fact,



Who's tune is he now singing?

Rubbing shoulders as he does with the beautiful and the glamorous, the question that is often asked is, 'What about the Swami's sex life?' According to people close to him, his reply has always been, 'I have never felt the urge'

been described as a "confidence trickster" by a former editor of a chain of newspapers

So far the godman's efforts do not seem to have made much headway. But the Chandra Shekhar government, faced with dead-ends elsewhere, seem to be keeping alive a hope that he might be able to achieve something. The VHP has, however, decided to completely ignore him despite his announcement that temple work will start from February 2. A senior Congress(I) leader also remarked, "One does not know whether gimmickry will help solve such a complex problem".

Whether or not anything comes out of his efforts, Chandra Swami will still be the gainer. He loves publicity and there's no better way of staying in the headlines than being in the middle of a controversy.

Tou bump into them everywhere-from lush Bandung to dusty Omdurman and as far as you can go, all the way to the tip of the Americas. Even back of beyond you will find them --Punjabis, Gujaratis, Sindhis, Bengalis, Madrasis and even the occasional Parsi-plying their different trades: merchants, airline pilots, carpenters, engineers, what-haveyou. They may not look like peas in a pod, but they have one thing in common. They proudly proclaim that they are sprung from the womb of Mother India, even those born in the country of their adoption. They are pioneers. We dismiss them with the ugly appellation of NRI.

One such was Pritam Singh. I bumped into him one night in a sleepy village 50 miles out of Guadalajara. The driver, Mario, had crawled out from under the bonnet of the car and reported: "Sorry, senor, no can do. Now I go find place where Excellence can get some sleep."

He came back a half-hour later, grinning from ear to ear. "Find nice posada, senor," he told me. "Parton is getting room ready and I ask him to make some food. He is ver-ree hap-pee. He is uno Indiano".

I took no notice of the latter remark, as I knew from our records that there were no persons of Indian origin in this neck of the woods, nor in any other part of Mexico, apart from those we had at the embassy and some remaining immigrant farmers in Baja California.

The posada was a miserable affair, as it turned out. Despite its proximity to the US and the pronounced American influence, many parts of Mexico are as primitive as any of our own backwaters. The innkeeper greeted me with a volley of gibberish which I barely understood and he carried a kerosene-oil lantern to show me to my room, where a naked bulb hung from the ceiling, encircled by moths. Apart from a bed against the wall and a small table beside it, the: room was bare. The floor wasn't terribly clean, and I shi-

BEING THERE

vered, but not because it was cold.

Then as he was about to leave, the man holding the lantern said "Jai Hind!" and I swung around to take a better look. He was perhaps 30 and of medium height and, despite the hour, perched on his head at a rakish angle was an enormous sombrero which concealed most of his face except a shaggy beard and firm white teeth flashing through the growth whenever he smiled, which was all the time.

I asked him to sit beside me on the bed. "After I tell my esposa (wife) to bring some food," he said, returning a minute later with a bottle of tequila in one hand and a pair of grubby glasses in the other. Quickly he poured drinks and said: "Salud!" Then he told me the story of his life.

His father, who was over 80 and still lived in Vancouver, had come out as an indentured labourer on the Canadian Pacific Railroad. When he was seven or eight, his parents sent him to school in India at Moga, near their village, but

The NRI may be going round with an ugly appellation, but his heart belongs here

he didn't like it there and he returned to Vancouver after matriculating.

But the wanderlust had eaten into his soul, and he ran away from home, moving south to the Imperial Valley in California, where some Sikh farmers had made good in a big way and wanted more hands to help in their alfalfa fields. The money was good but it was hard work and soon he tired of the drudgery and hitch-hiked his way to Los Angeles, where he was given some bit parts to play in Hollywood. Again he tired and on an impulse he boarded a bus bound for Tijuana on the AmericanMexican border, where he became a waiter in a night club. One night he became involved in a brawl, and the next he knew he had been dumped in a thicket miles from nowhere. By Guruji's grace, a passing truck driver found him—and here he was, married to the daughter of the truck driver, who owned this little posada, which he had been asked to take over and develop into a tourist resort or something similar.

"But it's a bit off the beaten track." I ventured.

"All the better," he replied defiantly. "Tourists are looking for peace and quiet, and here they'll find it. We're not far from the main highway linking the State capital and the ocean is an easy drive west wards. It's all made to measure."

Tourism was the "in" thing now, Pritam Singh went on, and he had recently taken a course in hotel management at San Diego. He had also succeeded in obtaining a loan from the Bank of America, and soon would be importing the materials to convert the posada into a modern hostelry.

There was a knock on the door and a comely, darkhaired, young woman, heavy with child, entered shyly and placed a tray on the table. She then left the room and brought back a bottle of wine. There were roasted chickens, fried potatoes and a plate of frijoles (beans), with freshly baked garlic bread. It was as satisfying a meal as any I have eaten. All the while the girl lingered in the background, like a good Indian wife, waiting for the opportunity to be helpful. "We will have 20 rooms,"

"We will have 20 rooms," Pritam Singh announced proudly, chewing on a chicken leg "One we will name for you and you will always have a reservation when you come this side again. In about a year or 18 months, we should be ready."

"You will become a sort of pioneer," I told him.

"Something like that," he agreed, without a trace of modesty.

P.L. Bhandari





Brighter Horizons

Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar recently urged the SAARC nations to implement programmes for the welfare of the girl child Coming on the heels of countless reviews and retrospective musings which brought up the rear to the Year of the Girl Child, the Prime Minister's stand certainly holds more promise than that of his predecessor, V P Singh, who failed to adopt any positive measure in this regard

V P Singh, in fact, had even managed to evade, in his characteristic manner. any promise of a statutory status to the National Commission for Women, in spite of a commitment to do so in the National Front man ifesto

The statutory commission was originally recommended by the Committee on the Status of Women, set up by Mrs Indira Gandhi in 1971 But surprisingly Mrs Gandhi repeatedly turned down demands to give the body statutory status whenever the subject arose in Parlia ment.

If appointed, the commission would monitor and accelerate the process of equal representation for



A ladies' man

women, enforce all legisla tion for women's rights (in cluding labour laws) and check discrimination in all spheres Speaking of the eradication of discriminatory attitudes one must surely applaud the stand adopted by chief of Army staff, Gen

S.F. Rodrigues, who promised to make efforts to induct women into the Army on the eve of Army Day He said 'I am of the opinion that this perception (of women serving the medical services of the Army) has to change and that this process is long overdue. I am quite certain that very soon we will offer our women the opportunity to contribute effectively to national secur ity "Spoken like a true sol dier, and here's hoping you see it through, too, General!

Leading the Way

If the Gulf crisis sent ripples of concern through the automobile industry, it also came as a boon for the city's women entrepreneurs dealing with vehicles like Saswati Mukherjee, possibly the first Indian woman automobile dealer, who has simply followed up her childhood dream to stand on her own feet. Seven years ago, Saswati was the sales manager of a well-known company dealing in cars. Once she learnt the ropes, she decided to be her own boss

It was, however, not quite so easy Their first obstacle was funds. She sold her ornaments, managed to get a loan from a bank and thus began Saswati Automobiles on Park Street. But she did not stop there As an astute business-woman, she discovered that an automobile dealer without a garage for repairs was at a distinct disadvantage so she in-

vested in one Saswati Motors, at Bondel gate Not surprisingly Saswati, who now employs over 30 persons and enjoys a very good rapport with her staff, is primarily dependent on male customers for the success of her venture

Another beacon: And speaking of women with a preference for wheels, Calcutta has come up with another first in Sumita Ghosh—the airst woman autorickshaw driver After a woman took to driving a taxı ın Howrah, Calcuttans were simply awaiting someone with a little more gumption to roll off on the three-wheeler And there she is, rising to the challenge with her very own auto (number WBY 2695) that she shuttles back and forth, from the Behala tram depot towards Batanagar ever since the original owner, her brother, died in a mishap And all those belligerent men who resented having to sit in front are now singing an entirely different tunes it needs little magination to guess why!

Aiming High

Javier Perez de Cuellar s term as secretary-general of the United Nations expues at the end of the year and contenders for the coveted post are already warming up at the base line. One of the favourites is Ms Gro Harlem Brundtland, a former Prime Minister of Norway, and if chosen, she will be the first woman to head the world body in its 45-year history.

Ms Brundtland has a strong case despite an unwritten law which says the post should be filled in turn by persons from Gro Harlem Brundtland



all over the globe Two Scandinavians have already held the post—Norway's Trygve Lie (1946-1952) and Swede Dag Hammarskigold from 1953 till his death in a plane crash in 1953

But the name most frequently mentioned at diplomatic receptions and in the corndors of the UN headquarters at New York is that of Ms Brundtland, although by rights, the successor to Perez de Cuellar should be an African But in 1986, when Perez de Cuellar's first term was nearing its end and the Peruvian diplomat showed little interest in continuing in the post, the African nations in the UN failed to agree on a candidate If this recurs, the 51year-old Ms Brundtland has a good chance of being elected

This would, indeed, raise the hopes of women all over the world for she would be heir to five male chiefs in an organisation that is certainly not renowned for providing equal opportunities for women

Sudipta Bhattachar jee



HERITAGE @ Rothin Mitro

THE IRAN SOCIETY BUILDING



The building occupied by the Iran Society at 12 Kyd Street in central Calcutta originally belonged to James Barwell. son of Richard Barwell and colleague of Warren Hastings. Corporation records show that James Barwell's house was built in the early 19th century. The Iran Society purchased the premises with its palatial building, lawn and out-houses, not too long ago for Rs 3,41,000. James Barwell died in or about 1841 "at his house in Chowringhee". The house passed onto several hands before the Iran Society purchased it.

The Iran Society is purely a cultural institution engaged in the study of Indo-Iranian rela-

tions and culture. Dr Muhammad Ishaque, founder of the society, joined Calcutta University's department of Arabic and Persian as lecturer in 1927 and retired as reader and head of the department in 1960. The Iran Society was established on August 27, 1944. Dr Ishaque went to Iran in 1930 as a young researcher; and in 1938 was granted the Ghosh Travelling Fellowship of the Calcutta University for study at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. He came in contact with His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Aryamehr of Iran, and visited Iran several times: the last being in 1966 as an Indian delegate to the World Congress of Iranologists in Tehran. An author of several books on Indo-Iranian relations, Dr Ishaque died on September 12, 1969. The Calcutta Municipal Corporation renamed the Kyd Street after Dr Ishaque in 1971, waiving all formalities. (Kyd Street had got its name from James Kyd, son of Col Kyd, founder of the Botanical Gardens and one of Calcutta's earliest ship-builders.)

Besides bringing out a journal, the society is busy in other spheres as well. The membership of the society is open to scholars and people interested in the advancement of Indo-Iranian relations.



t a time when charges and recriminations are still being traded over India's dismal display in the recent Beijing Asian Games, a sports programme has come to light which, if adopted scrupulously throughout the country, should make India a formidable competitor in the not-too-distant future, and perhaps one day put it on the map of Olympic medal winners.

The programme is not new and is an improvisation of a similar scheme started in Britain in the Fifties. It was initiated in 1978 by former international athlete V.S. Ramabhadran, originally from Kerala, who was the national high jump champion for three consecutive years from 1976, and represented the country in several international meets. It is an indication of the poor sports facilities in the country at that time that, while preparing for the Tokyo Asian Games, Ramabhadran seriously injured a knee during pole vault practice because there were no mattresses to cushion his fall. His own career having been written off, Ramabhadran made it his single-minded objective to bring out the talent lying dormant among India's teeming millions and help develop world class athletes. He began this in a modest way in Jamshedpur, where he was (and still is) employed with Tata Steel.

"The Five-star Award scheme as it is called," says Ramabhadran, "envisages a three-stage approach to developing an athlete, with the added benefit of keeping

Carlyle Chapman looks at

a sports programme,
which not only catches
'em young but also costs
very little, at least to
begin with. Given the
right impetus, it could
grow into a nationwide
movement and provide
the long-awaited light at
the end of the tunnel

anybody who follows the plan in peak physical condition, immaterial of his or her athletic potential." Setting out with the scientific idea that a person's genetic makeup is a factor in his or her athletic prowess, the Five-Star attempts to build on this innate skill, honing it to higher levels of achievement.

Certain motor muscles can attain maximum flexibility and manoeuvrability by the time a child is eight-to-12 years old, after which their suppleness can only be maintained through exercise. There is a deceleration in the growth of certain hor-



Jamshedpur school student Richa Mehrotra, who topped the Five-Star competition, displaying her certificates and badges

mones, too, by this age. Ramabhadran exploited this fact to shape the first part of his programme for children from the ages of one to eight. The children are first trained to do head rolls (on cushioned mattresses to prevent injury) and later taught hand stands, somersaults, cartwheels, horse vaulting, back flips, rope ladder scaling and Roman ring exercises. Along with this they perform aerobics to

improve limb coordination. According to a study, this basic training also helps prevent many diseases including those of the heart, which are believed to have their origin in childhood.

In the next stage---for children between nine and 14—the Five-Star Award Incentive goes into effect to spot sporting talent among the children. They are made to regularly compete in 36 disciplines in track and field events and given scores in each. According to the scores, cerificates are issued and grades allotted, the maximum being 'Five Stars' for an ideal performance There is also a Five-Star trophy for the best athlete, designed by Ramabhadran himself. These incentives spur the children to constantly better their standards.

The last stage of Ramabhadran's scheme involves the grooming of talented athletes at the national level by providing them with the latest facilities available and continuously monitoring their progress in comparison with international standards. "This phase also aims to ensure that the athletes are in peak physical condition with proper deting and training."

"When I first introduced the scheme in

Jamshedpur, the response was lukewarm, with parents fearing that their children would be too exhausted by all these extra workouts to concentrate on their studies. Now, however, more than 10 schools in the steel city have incorporated the gymnastics and aerobics routine in their curriculum, and teachers themselves say they find the children more alert and attentive in class."

Ramabhadran also took the programme back to his village, Vakkom, in sportsconscious Kerala, and soon was able to set it up on a wide scale. The advantage to popularity that the project claims is the cheapness of implementing the initial phase. Only a few ropes, benches, mattresses and poles, and a cleared area will suffice for an improvised gymnasium, putting it within the reach of poorer and rural sections of the community which have a wealth of natural talent to offer.

China and some other Far East countries adopted a similar fitness programme as far back as the Sixties and have since made advances which have astonished even the advanced countries. Of course this is notwithstanding the drugs that are involved. "I am not against legitimate

sports drugs once an athlete has reached the maximum level he can attain without it," Ramabhadran emphasises.

"I feel sure that if the Five-Star Award Incentive project is taken up as a mass movement in India, our country, too, will be among the medals," says the six-foottall Tata sports co-ordinator. He has already received an encouraging response from the Sports Authority of India who have evinced interest in merging the programme with those they have already started, and also of running it on the morning show of Doordarshan to generate nationwide awareness. The eastern regional director of SAI, O.P. Bhatia, said the organisation would pass on the scheme to the coaches and principals of the various schools under its aegis for implementation, to supplement its own athletics training programme. The Lakehmibhai National College of Physical Education in Delhi and the Kerala Sports Council (KSC) flave already offered to adopt the scheme. In fact, KSC has invested funds in the project for villages in the state.

Ramabhadran is certainly not content to sit back and let things take their course. "I want to see all schools in the steel belt,

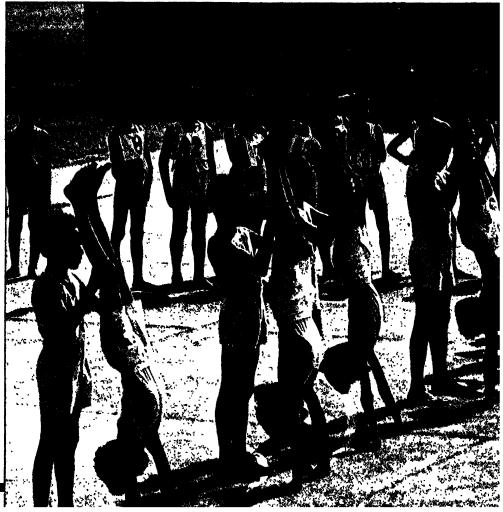
Matter of nergy

trength, speed and endurancethese are the three basic requireits for any athlete to excel after his ibility and co-ordination have been t up. Sports disciplines are divided two categories, one where the lete's aerobic capacity should be 1 and the other where he needs to e a greater anaerobic capacity. ierobic capacity is necessary in fast nts like a 100-metre dash, where muscles burn up energy at a rate er than that at which an athlete es in oxygen. In this situation the ly's metabolic system compensates forming lactic acid, which if it umulates without being assimilated is to muscle cramps—a common aplaint of sprinters.

terobic respiration occurs in those rts where the body burns up energy is slower pace, allowing the oxygening taken in to be stored as energy in while the muscles are active. In disciplines include many field ints like shot put, high jump and g-distance running.

To a great extent the aerobic and erobic capacities of an individual are ted by genetic factors. The rest can improved through practice.

Schoolchildren practise a hand-stand for a mass gymnastics display



like Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur and Bhilai taking up the programme. Then I intend to have at least five or six centres in each state where the scheme can run to completion so that all the three stages will mesh and bring forth Five-Star material," he says confidently.

This is definitely a tall order for one man, but Ramabhadran does not intend it to be a one-man show. "If the various business houses in the public and private sectors step in to back the project, it can achieve the goal it is meant for." Though the initial phase of the project involves little or no cost, the later stages would prove more effective if supported with the latest infrastructure in the form of sophisticated equipment for measuring the aerobic and anaerobic capacity of athletes (to fit them into a suitable sports discipline), modern exercise kits and other paraphernalia, all or most of which need to be imported.

Ramabhadran's own employers have been very forthcoming in helping spread the fitness message in Jamshedpur. Ramabhadran even visited the United Kingdom recently as a representative of his company, to discuss the project with top sports officials, including the president of the European Coaches Association, Frank W. Dick, and a representative of the Central Council of Physical Recreation in

Striking the Right Balance

 ${f R}$ amabhadran propounds a well-balanced meal of approximately 15 per cent protein, 35 per cent fat and 50 per cent carbohydrate. His detailed dietary regimen is as follows:

 At least two daily servings of dairy products like milk and cheese for adults, four such servings for teenagers and three for children;

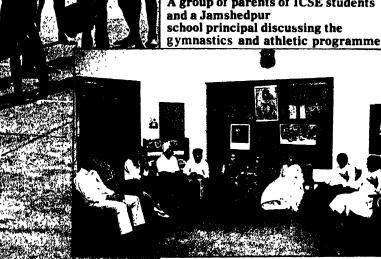
 Two or more daily servings of meat and other proteins, each serving being five ounces;

 Four or more servings of vegetables and fruits, with at least one dark green or deep yellow vegetable, one citrus fruit and one other item-fruit orvegetable:

 Four or more daily servings of bread and other cereals.

Athletes. Ramabhadran feels, should eat a well-balanced meal three hours prior to an event in which they are participating. Contrary to popular opinion, Ramabhadran indicates that vitamins given to athletes to boost their performance may actually be detrimental in the wrong quantities. Vitamins A and D in excess are toxic, B complex vitamins are already present in the diet and one component, Niacin, is harmful in excess. Excess of vitamin C is toxic and vitamin E, too, is thought to be harmful, says Ramabhadran, who has attended conferences on sports medicine.

A group of parents of ICSE students



the UK. Chris Earle. Both officials were impressed with the programme and volunteered to contribute their expertise in making it a success in India. Frank Dick is also the director of coaching for the Amateur Athletic Association, who be lieves Ramabhadran's project will have an "immense impact on the present and future quality of life in the local community and nationally in India.

Ramabhadran's crusade to spread his dreamchild has also taken him to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where he intends to start the project in local schools. His suggestion has been received with enthusiasm by the authorities there and he is optimistic of it catching on "The UAE has abundant resources to encourage sportsmen," he said.

The students by and large are enthusiastic about the programme. Some of them have even persuaded their parents to set up miniature gyms at home where they practise their acrobatic skills. Several students of the Sacred Heart Convent, Loyola school, Little Flower School and other institutions have claimed benefits from the programme in their sports

Primary schoolchildren practising rope climbing and vaulting for flexibility



Deepali Perti of the Sacred Heart was spotted in this programme at the age of 10 and has earned a five-star rating. She is now 15 years old. Another girl from the same school, asked how the project had affected her, said: "I play basketball and this programme has definitely helped improve my jump and flexibility

The Five-Star fitness-cum-athletics programme faces a long and tough road head. Will it remain the inspired efforts of a single disillusioned former athlete and a few others like him, or will the country and its citizens who have the wherewithal step up to patronise and participate in this and other similar schemes to produce Olympians? Will an Olympic scoreboard reading, India-Gold-10, Silver-5, Bronze 2', remain a dream, or can it be a reality? Only time will tell.

PANORAMA

There's new evidence that two Cameroon killer lakes—Nyos and Monoun--are being recharged with deadly carbon dioxide.

In August 1986, Nyos, a jewel-like crater lake, erupted with a burst of deadly carbon-dioxide gas that killed 1,700 people. Smaller Monoun, 59 miles to the south, had already stunned the West African nation two years earlier with an outburst that left 37 dead.

Probes of Lake Nyos' bottom waters by a team of US scientists show a 26 per cent buildup of carbon dioxide since May 1987. "It's a stick of TNT waiting to go off," concludes research scientist George W. Kling, who recently finished his analysis of

There's a time bomb ticking in Cameroon's

lakes, writes

Donald J. Frederick

Lake Nyos water samples at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massacheussets.

"Our data is still incomplete, but we think that Monoun is recharging too," says Michele L. Tuttle, a US Geological Survey research chemist and a member of the scientific team that is studying the lakes.

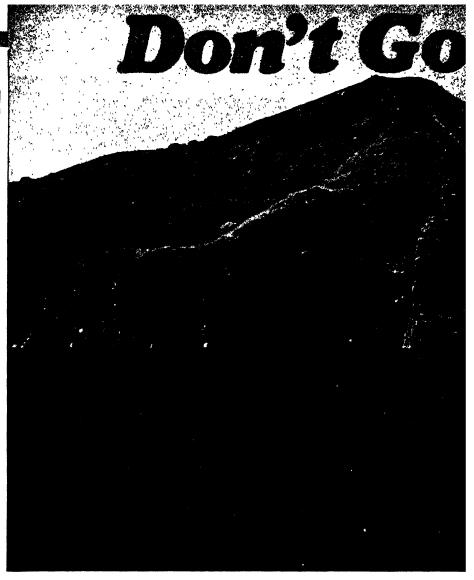
Some scientists have argued that the 1986 release of gas from Lake Nyos was caused by a volcanic eruption.

Kling and his colleagues are now convinced that carbon dioxide, formed deep inside the earth, feeds into the lake from one or more underground springs. But differences in water temperature and mineral concentrations keep the gas near the bottom of the lake.

The lake's waters form two layers. The weight of the upper layer acts as a lid and holds the gas on the bottom until a violent event such as a landslide, an earth tremor, or a volcanic eruption stirs the supercharged bottom waters upward. The result is a violent, foaming eruption much like the uncorking of a warm bottle of champagne.

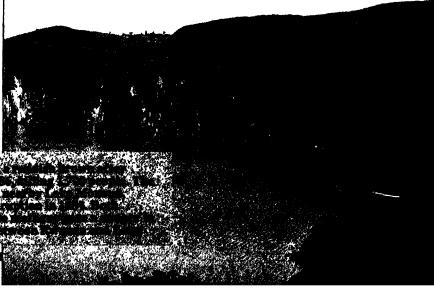
A dense, colourless gas, carbon dioxide weighs one and a half times as much as air. A concentrated form is used in fire extinguishers because it pushes air aside and robs fire of the oxygen needed for burning.

These consequences were evident at

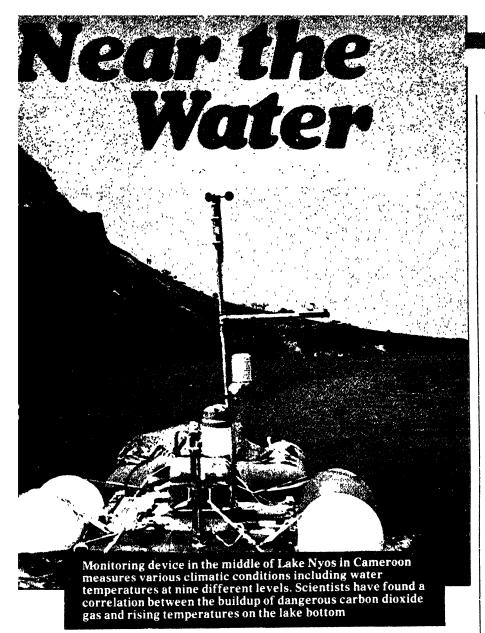


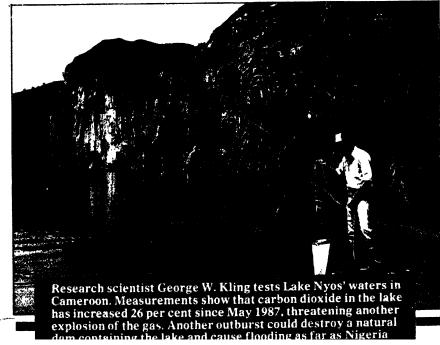
Lake Nyos. The eruption of lake gas formed a ground-hugging cloud that, as it moved, pushed aside breathable air. A similar thing happened at Lake Monoun. In both cases, the victims were robbed of oxygen and asphyxiated.

No one knows what triggered the lakes' outbursts. One investigation into the Lake Monoun incident concluded that a landslide disturbed dissolved gas that had become trapped in the bottom water after leaking from a deep volcanic fissure.



Lake Nyos in Cameroon was strined, carbon dioxide apewed from it in 1981 and it is 1981 as is again building up there and at a carbon dioxide and blined in a gas en a carbon dioxide and blinely flummable.





This came as no surprise. Cameroon's crater-lake district is a volcanically active region. Faults and craters scar the face of the land. Many may still leak tumes from subterranean cracks.

A shallower and smaller lake than Nyos, Monoun does not have the capacity to release as much gas as its neighbour. Yet, a future eruption could be just as deadly as the last, depending on wind direction

"If another event occurs and the wind is blowing south, it would carry the gas right into a small village," says Kling, whose work in Cameroon has been supported by the National Geographic Society.

So far, the Lake Nvos and Lake Monoun tragedies are the only recorded events in which gas released from lakes has caused the loss of human lives.

Even without the gas, Lake Nyos' waters are a threat. Any future disaster at the lake might undernine a natural dam of soft volcanic rock that holds the lake within the crater.

"The dam has been steadily eroding since its formation about 400 years ago," says John Lockwood, a volcanologist at the US Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. "Its collapse would be like letting the Mississippi River rampage for a half hour or so. Flood waters from Lake Nyos would probably reach Nigeria. 65 miles away."

Lockwood advocates installing a pipe on one side of the lake that would carry out water, lowering the level enough to prevent a flash flood if the fragile spillway collapses.

An even bigger time bomb may be ticking miles away in a larger lake that stores a lot more carbon dioxide than its counterparts in Cameroon. Nearly 50 miles wide, Lake Kivu fills the rift between Zaire and Rwanda, and the area around it is heavily populated.

Bacterial action converts much of Kivu's carbon dioxide to methane, which can be burned as fuel. A Rwandan brewery already fuels its boilers on lake methane.

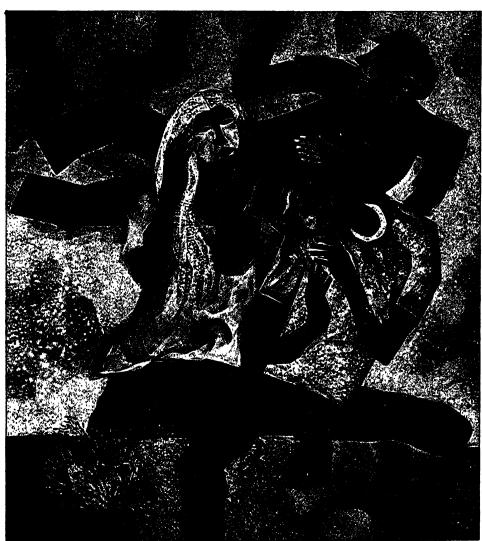
"I'm most concerned about the possibility of a volcanic eruption below this lake," says Lockwood. "That could trigger both carbon dioxide and a deadly fire storm from burning methane." The resulting fireball would devastate the densely populated lake basin.

Since Kivu is in an active, volcanic riftzone, Lockwood hopes that some kind of early-warning device can be installed near the lake. Many scientists advocate a controlled degassing of the entire lake. It has been estimated that Kivu's waters hold more than 82 million cubic yards of methane and five times as much carbon dioxide.

(National Geographic News Service)

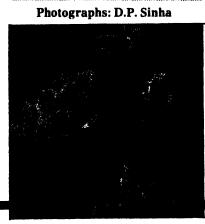
THE ARTS

Of Life, As It Is





A look at some of
Shekhar Roy's paintings,
now on view at
Galerie 88







CURRY CURRY CURRY Ranjit Rai

America	Ingredients	Metric	British
(eggs, large	6	6
ž. cuţ	oil, preferably groundnut	200 ml	7 fl oz (1½ cups)
1 tbsr	salt, to taste	15 g	1 tbsp
	singe-fry masala		
1 tsp	cumin seed, whole	3 g	1 tsp
1/3 cur	green curry leaves	10 g	1 oz
	ollow-up massis 1	f	
2	onions, large, finely sliced	2	2
1 tsp	ginger paste	5 g	1 tsp
1 tbsr	gartic paste	15 g	1 tbsp
1 tsp	chilli powder	2g	1 tsp
2 tsps	cumin powder	5.5 g	2 taps
	ollow-up masala 2	10	
3 lb 6 oz	tomatoes, large, red, skinned & strained	1 <u>1</u> kg	3 lb 6 oz
	oliow-up mesala 3	fe	
i cup	preen coriander, leaves only	10 g	- oz
2	green chillies, sliced	2	2
•	garnish masala		
‡ cup	green coriander, leaves only	10 g	oz (‡ cup)

Method

Wash the tomatoes. Steam or boil for 8-10 minutes. Puree in a blender and strain. Keep the pulp to one side.

Heat oil until it is almost smoking, add the singe-fry masala and brown for about 2 minutes. Add the follow-up masala 1, starting with the onions until they are brown and follow it immediately with the remaining masala and salt. Stir fry for about 3 minutes, then add the follow-up masala 2 of tomato pulp and cook on moderate heat for 15-20 minutes till the oil is released. Now add the follow-up masala 3. By now the consistency will be like thick tomato soup.

Transfer to a baking dish and add the eggs one by one (see note at the end). Have the oven preheated to 180 deg C and bake for 5-8 minutes or till the eggs have set. Remove from oven and add the garnish masala, and serve.

Note: Best eaten by itself. May also be had with any bread or boiled rice.

Do not put all the eggs together in one bowl. They should be broken one by one into a cup or a wine glass before being put together in a larger dish. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, it helps avoid a bad egg, secondly the yolk may break. If bad, throw it away and clean the cup. Should the yolk break keep it for scrambled eggs or omlette. Also, the egg from a cup or wine glass pours evenly onto the sauce.

Eggs in Tomato Curry

Avery popular dish of *Hyderabadi* ongin. The sauce is basic and can also be used for such things as prawns or even mushrooms. The sauce is piquant and resembles, to some extent, the Hungarian Letcho.

Serves 6

Cooking Time: 40-50 minutes

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India







Ishita Mukherjee, Rita Koyral and Debashree Roy in Ahankaar

• Bahaar Aane Tak New Cinema (Lenin Sarimi 270147) 4 Shows

A musical romance starring Rupa Ganguly Sumcet Saigal Navin Nischil Turiq Shih and Moon Moon Sen The film is directed by Turiq Shah and the music is by Raigsh Roshan

• Khilaaf Opera (Lenin Saram

• Khilaaf Opera (Lenin Sarani 281849) Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road 391090) Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033) Kalika (Sadananda Road 478141)

Directed by Rajeev Nagpaul and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal the film stars Chunkey Panday Madhuri Dixit and Anupam Kher

• Pathar Ke Insan Jyoti (I enin Sarani 241132) Geni (AJC Bose Road 249828) Prabhat (Chittar anjan Avenue 390762 Talkie Show House (Shibd is Bhaduri 552270) Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417) Bina (Bidhan Sarani 311522)

A film by Shomu Mukherji star ring Vinod Khania Sridevi Jackie Shroff and Poonam Dhillon The music is by Bappi Lahin

• Pyar Ka Devta Roxy (Chowringhec Place 284138) 11 2 1 > 5 30 8 45

Directed by K. Bapaiah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the chief attractions of this film are Mithun Chakraborty. Madhuri Dix it Rupa Ganguly. Shakti Kapoor Moushumi. Chatterjee, and Kader Khan.

• Sanam Bewafa Lotus (5 N Banerjee Road 242664) Indira (Indra Roy Road 471757)— 4 shows

A love story interspersed with actions this Saawan K imar film stars Salman Khan and debutante Chandni. Others co starring are

new find Kanchan Puncet Issa Pankaj Dheer Danny and Pran The music is by Mahesh Kishor

• Saugandh Hite (S.N. Banci jee Road 241383) Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street 234936) Aloc hhaya (Beliaghata Main Road 355059) Madhuban (Regent Park)

A film by Rij Sippy Starting Raakhee Mukesh Khanna Pankaj Dheer and Rupa Ganguly

Bengali Films

• Ahankaar Sree (Bidhan Siri ni 551515) Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350680) Ujjala (Russa Road 478666) 3 shows

Directed by Srikanta Guhatha kurta and with music by R D Burmman the main cast comprises Pracenjit Debashrce Roy Utpal Dutt Kali Banerjec Anup Kumar and Ranjit Mullick

• Mahaajan Minar (Bidhin Sarani 552753) Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road 473462) Chha bighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740) 2 45 5 30 8 15

An Anjan Choudhury film star ring Utpal Dutt Ranjit Mullick Sandhya Roy Kali Bancijce Joy Banerjee Chumki Choudury and Tapas Paul The music is by Swa par Chakraborty

• Rajnartaki Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133) Prachi (AIC Bose Road 271282) Purna (5 P Mukherjee Road 474567)—3 shows

Sudha Chandran's debut Bengali film which also stars I apas Paul Basanta Chowdhury Anup Kumar Sailen Mukherjee Nirmal Kumar and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury The film is directed by Narayan Chakraborty and the music is by Bireshwar Sarkar

7 DAYS

Special Events

3 February 6 30 pm

Padatik will stage the Hindi play Baarishwala Directed by Rodney Marriott the cast includes Rajaram Yagnik Shakil Khan B M Hada Sanchayita Bhat tacharya Vinay Sharma Mehmud Alam and Arun Sharma

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretona Street)

5 & 6 Febi uary 6 pm Chandral's 10th annual festival of classical dance and music features Bela Arnab (thumri) Debait Chakravarty (sitar) and Arundhati Roy (Odissi) on 5th and Harashankar Bhatticharya (sitar) and Abhijit Roy (Kathak) on 6th

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretona treet)

7 February 630 pm

Nandikar will stage Sankhapur er Sukanya directed by Rudripra sad Sengupta

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 284302)

7 February onwards 3 pm - 8

A week long exhibition of paint ings by Aditya Bandyopadhyay and Samir Bandyopadhyay in the West **Gallery**

• Prabir Gupta will hold a week long exhibition of his paintings in the North Gallery

 A week long exhibition of paint ings by Sukumar Ghosh and others in the New South Gallery

 Gour Ghosh will hold a week long exhibition of his paintings in the South Gallery

• Saktı Brata Mukherjer will hold a week long exhibition of his paint ings in the New Gallery

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 284302)

7 February 6 pm

Shinjini and Shruti Steels Pvt



An Odissi group performance by Padatik

I td present a solo Kathak recital by Keya Chanda At Gyan Manch (11 Pretona

Street)

8 February 6 30 pm Pancham Vaidic presents Saoli Mitra's Katha'i Amrita Samaan At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 284302)

9 February 630 pm As part of the Winter Festival

90.91 Padatik presents in even ing of Odis i dances (choreographed by Guru Keluch iran Mahapatra and Sharmi la Biswas) fe ituing Sharmila Bis was along with Sharmila Paul Reena Jana Saswiti Mitra Ra jyashri Ghosh and others in solo duct and group ompositions

At Gyan Minch (11 Pretoria

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

This schedule is effective till February 5

International

Calcutta-Bombay London-New York Dep (2) Al 101 at 0230 Bombay Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (5) Al 306 al 1915 Dep (5) Al J06 at 2020 Tokyo Bangkok Calcutta Bombay Arr (6) Al 309 at 1910 Dep (6) Ai 309 at 2025 London-Delhi-Calcutta Ar (7) Al 132 1328 at 1230

Moscow Sharjah-Calcutta Arr (4) SU 537 at 1625 Calcutta-Sharjah Moscow

Dep (4) SU 538 at 1825
* Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi Calcutta-Hanoi Arr (2) SU 541 at 0755 Dep (2) SU 541 at 0905
* Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow Arr (2) SU 542 at 1755 Dep (2) SU 542 at

Calcutta-Amman Dep (5) RJ 185 at 0630

Amman-Calcutta Arr (4) RJ 184 at 0800

Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ 416 at 1130 and Dep '4) SQ 420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta Arr (2) SQ 416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ 420 at

1210 Calcutta-Bangkok Dep (2 4 7) IC 231 at 0900 Dep (1 3 6) TG 314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta Arr (2 4 7) IC-232 at 1500 Arr (1 3 6) TG 313 at 1240

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (1 5) RA 214 at 1530

Kathmandu-Calcutta Arr (1 5) RA 213 at 1430

Calcutte-Dhaka Dep (daily) BG 092 at 1150 and BG 098 at 2020

Dep (1 4 7) BG 094 at 1700 Dhake-Calcutta Arr (daily) BG 091 at 1110 and BG 097 at 1940 Arr (1 4 7) BG 093 at 1620 Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG 698 at 1355

Chittagong-Calcutta Arr (2 5) BG 697 at 1310

Calcutta-Paro Dep (2) KB 106 at 0900 Arr (2) KB 105 at 0800

Domestic

Calcutta-Bombay Dep (2) Al 101 at 0230 Delhi-Calcutta Arr (1) Al 1328 at 1230

Indian Airlines 🚧 🚧

Calcutta-Delhi Dep (dailv) IC 263 at 0800 and IC 402 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC 401 at 1240 and IC 264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC 176 at 0850 and IC 273 at 2000 Arr (daily) IC 175 at 0750 and IC 274 at 1850

Calcutta-Madras ep (1 2 4 6) IC 265 at 1715 Dep (3 5 7) IC 765 at 1630 Arr (1 2 4 6) IC 266 at 2205 Arr (3 5 7) IC 766 at

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras Dep (1 4 6) IC 542 at 1040 Arr (1 4 6) IC 541 at 0915

Calcutta-Bangalore Dep (1 2 4 6) IC 771 at 1630 Dep (3 5 7) IC 271 at 1620 Arr (1 2 4 6) IC-772 at 2220 Arr (3 5 7) IC 272 at 2150

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-729 at 0830 and IC 727 at 1230

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266869, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

Arr (daily) IC 730 at 1130 and IC 728 at 1530

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta Dep (2 3 4 5 7) IC 213 at 0805 Arr (2 3 4 5 7) IC 213 at 1200

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep (1 3 5 7) IC 219 at 0810 Arr (1 3 5 7) IC 220 at 1250 Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-

Calcutta-Influence Arrivage Park 1650 Arr (3 5) IC 270 at 2040 Calcutta-Imphal Dep (2 4 7) IC 259 at 1330 Arr (2 4 7) IC 260 at 1610

Calcutta-Slichar-Imphal Dep (daily) IC 255 at 0740 Arr (daily) IC 256 at 1220

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (daily) IC 201 at 1305 Arr (daily) IC 202 at 1635

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna Lucknow-Delhi Dep (1 3 5) IC 410 at 0905 Dep (7) IC 410 at 1530 Arr (1 3 5 7) IC 409 at

Calcutta-Port Blair Dep (2 4 6) IC 285 at 0545 Arr (2 4 6) IC 286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC 287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC 288 at 1235

Celcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC 241 at 0800 Dep (2) IC 245 at 1040 Dep (2) IC 243 at 1400 Arr (1 2 4) IC 242 at 1000 Arr (3 5 6 7) IC 242 at 1450 Arr (2) IC-246 at 1240 Arr (2) IC 244 at

Calcutta-Bagdogra Dep (daily) IC 221 at 1300 Arr (daily) IC 222

at 1520 Vayudoot #

Calcutta-Agartala-Imphal Dep (1 3 5) PF 727 at 0530 Arr (1 3 5) PF-728 at 1120

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar Dep (7) PF 729A at 0550 Arr (7) PF-730A at 1050

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5 7) PF-701 at 1140 Arr (1 3 5 7) PF-702 at

Calcutta-Agertaia-Kamaipur-Kaliashahar-Agertaia-Calcutta Dep (2 4 6) PF 729 at 0550 Arr (2 4 6) PF 730 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati-Slicher-Calcutta Dep (2 4 6) PF 701 at 1100 Arr (2 4 6) PF-702 at 1715

Calcutta-Rourkela Dep (1 3 5) PF 715 at 0600 Arr (1 3 5) PF 716 at 0855

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilaberi-Dibrugarh-Tezu Dep (2 6) PF-709 at 0815 Arr (2 6) PF 710 at 1840

PF 710 at 10-0 Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Indet-Heheri-Dibrugarh Dep Jorhet-Lileberi-Dibrugarh Dep (4) PF 709 at 0815 Arr (4) PF-710 at 1750

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhet-Lileberi-Dibrugarh-Tezu Dep (7) PF 709 at 0600 Arr (7) PF-710 at 1705

Calcutta-Alzawi-Silchar-Guwahati Dep (1 3 5 7) PF

No traffic rights on Calcutta Sharjah Calcutta and Calcutta Karachi Tashkent Calcutta

7 DAYS

PF-705 at 0915, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-708 at 1620 Calcutta-Agertale: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-729A at 1130, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-730A at 1410

Calcutta-Alzawi-Agartaia-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-705 at 0910 and PF-729B at 1310, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-706 at 1255 and PF-730B at 1655 Calcutta-Jamshedpur-Ranchi-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0550, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1115 Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-717 at 0550, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0745 Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-707 at 0600; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-708 at 0855

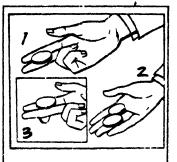
				Tra	ins				
Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival		Departure		SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn	Up	Time	Howrak	Time	Dn
2311	19-00	Delhi-Kalka Mail	8-30	2312					
3005	19-20	Amritear Mail	8-05	3006	6003	20-40	Madras Mail	7-00	6004
3003	20-00	Bombey Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	8002	19-20	Bombay Mall via Nagpur	8-00	8001
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	2859
		press via Gaya-Varanasi			8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	8033
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
		Arr-Wed Fri & Sun			2841	14-30	Coromendel (Madras) Ex-	11-50	2842
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304			press		
2303	3 -13		10-00	2304	2611	22-35	Bangsiore Express	13-45	2612
		press via Patna			2011	22-33	Dep-Tues	10-40	201
		Dep-Mon_Wed_Fri & Sun			ł				
		Arr—Mon Tues Thurs & Sat				47.00	Arr-Sun	40.00	004
2301	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	801
		week			8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	801
		Dep-Mon Tues Thurs Fri &			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	800
		Sun			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatla Express	6-05	8010
		Arr-1ues Wed Thurs Sat &			8007	22-00	Purl Express Via Cuttack	5-30	800
		Sun			8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via	7-45	841
2373	23-00		11-10	2374	5.00	18-30	Narai		
23/3	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	£3/4	2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	282
		press Tri-Wkly			2021	9-99		£ 1-20	202
		Dep-Tues Fri & Sat				44.45	press	44	
		Arr-Tues Wed & Sat			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex-	14-55	804
2547	13-15	Purbenchel (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	1		press _		
		press			8017	16-45	Purulia Express	11-20	801
		Dep-Mon & Thurs			1		DepExcept Saturday		
		Arr-Thurs & Mon			l		Arr-Except Sunday		
					2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan-	22-15	
3009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand	7-20	3010		LL 00	drum Central Express		
3003	20-03	Chord	20	00.0	l		Monday only		
3007	9-45	Udayan Abha Tootan Ex-	18-15	3008	l	44.40	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	260
3007	9-40		10-10	3000		14-10		13-43	200
		press via Main Line			ŀ		- Guwahati Express		
	00 (5	Bullet Paranage via Mala time	6 40	2012	l		Saturday only		
3011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	l —	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	264
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	l		Guwahati Weekly Express		
3021	22-00	Mithila Express	5-00	3022	ł		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
FOEN	47.05	Variation (Company) Frances	6.00	5660	1		Thursday only		
5659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30		2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Herbour	22-15	
3317	6-10	Black Dlamond Express	21-25	3318	2000	22 00	Terminus Weekly Express		
3029	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030	Ĭ		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3035	18-20	Asansoi Express	8-45	3036	i				
3031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032			Saturday only	40.45	005
					2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	265
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6-00	3072	i		Superfact Express (via		
		Dep-Tues Thurs & Sat			l		Visakhapatnam & Madras)		
		Arr-Mon Thurs & Sat			1		DepFri & Sun		
3015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	1		Arr-Tues & Fri		
		-			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	
1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express	7-30	1172	1		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
		Dep-Tues & Wed					& Cuttack)		
		Arr—Sat & Sun					Wednesday only		
3327	15-25	Shektipuni (Chopen) Ex-	7-30	3328	_	14-10	Bangaiore City-Guwahati	13-45	267
	.0 20	press			l	. 7 10	Weekly Express (via Howrah	40	
		Dep & Arr-Mon & Fri			ļ				
E0.40	00.05		10-40	5050	i		& Cuttack)		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express	10-40	3030	0010	00.00	Monday only	00 45	
		Dep & Arr—Sunday			2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	-
					l		minus Weekly Express (via		
					l		Howrah)		
					I		Thursday only		
					-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	260
					l	•	Patna Weekly Express (via		
					1		Howrah)		
					1		Wednesday only		
		Sealdah							
04.40	40.00							_	
3143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144			round the clock information of		
3153	21-40	Gour Express	9-15 a	3154	trains,	please di	al 203545-54 for in-coming train	s; 203535	i-44 fo
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152	all oth	er inform	nation For information about	reservatio	one o
3103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Laigoia) Express	10-25	3104			uth Eastern Railways trains, die		
						_		'	
5185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekiy Dep & Arr-Wed Fri & Sun	4-30	5186	am to	9 pm on	weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm (on Sunde	ve an

JUNIOR WHIRL D Hal Kaufman



MONKEY BIZI Our artist claims there are 13 monkeys in the picture above. How long will it take to find them all?

e CATCH 55! In separate steps, add and subtract three from a certain number. Multiply the two results and the answer is 55. What is the number? անն « ազատս ավա



MAGIC TOUCH WITH MONEY

It's a simple task for a magician to double money as demonstrated above. First the performer displays a coin upon his or her tingers (see illus 1 above). Then with a sudden move of the same hand out of nowhere alakazam another coin appears (see illus 2).

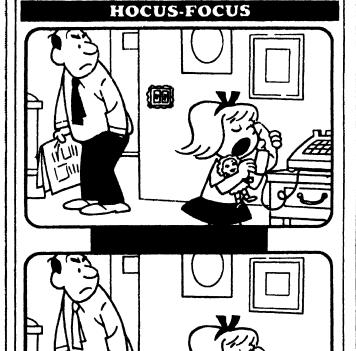
Here's how it's done A second coin is hidden between fingers holding the obvious coin (Illus 3) In moving the hand suddenly the magician diverts the hidden coin up into his or her palm and now there are two coins instead of one

e WHAT FOR! Each of the five six-letter words, below, begins with FOR. Each requires a three-letter word to complete it Definitions (of six-letter words). 1 To lose track. 2. Hunt food. 3. Precede 4. Refuse to allow. 5. Style, as of a newspaper or magazine

Can you discover the five three-letter words?

1 Get 2 Age 3 Eqo 4 Birl 5 Mail

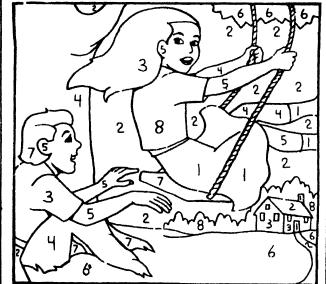
1 FOR		
2FOR		
3 FOR		-
4 FOR	-	
5 FOR	-	



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Officeneses: 1. The is different. 2. Novepaper to amelier. 3. Burlich is missing. 4. Pioture is amelier. 5. Doll is missing. 6. Drawer handle is missing.

FUNSPOT



SWING FEVER! One good turn deserves another, especially on a backyard awing. Colors: 1—Red 2—Lt blue. 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk brown 8—Dk green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

DISPOSAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.
doos pig eurosom; eiglesod

OUIZ D Neil O'Brien

· Kundu. Calcutta, wants to know the connection between Greek dance and Isadora Duncan. famous modern dancer.

History shows that the first impetus to the creation of almost any art lies in religion. The first dances of the Greeks were part of their religious ritual; and their evolution followed the history of the Greek race throughout

all its ages.

The primitive rituals of the Minoan peoples of the Aegean included dances, but very little is known of the dancing of this period. Clear references, however, to the dances of the Greeks are found in the writings of Homer, which tell of religious ceremonies, sacrifices, and funeral rites, and bridal dances and vintage dances. There is one vivid description of a dance in which youths and maidens, holding one another by the wrist in long lines, advanced and retired, much after the manner of many folk dances. Homer also gives us a short but vivid picture of two boys dancing with a "goodly ball of purple hue.'

During the Dorian era, the art of dancing developed a great deal, and in the fifth century BC, that golden age of Greek culture, the dance became a means of expression of every phase of human life, thought, and feeling.

There were ritual dances as part of worship in the temples; and there were dances of the chorus as part of drama in the theatres. There were dances of mourning at funeral ceremonies; and social dances at weddings and other social festivities. There were country dances danced at the festivals of the seasons, and religious ecstatic dances connected with the festivals of Dionysus.

The ancient Greeks appear to have expressed themselves through the medium of the dance at all times and in all places. The high ideal of physical beauty held by the Hellenes of the fifth century BC inspired their



11th Question: In aerospace terminology, what is the "Donald Duck Effect"? (Farha Abbas, 181/B Park Street, Calcutta-700017.)

Ans: It is the distortion of the voice upto a higher pitch (like Donald Duck) which

can be encountered during space flights.

dancing-and these same ideals have inspired the revival of Greek Dancing in this present century.

At the end of the 19th century there was an increasing urge to break from the conventional form of the Ballet and to produce a form of dance with more scope for break showed itself first in an eccentric and contorted form

individual expression. This of movement originating in the Montmartre district of Paris, but which restricted itself to the music halls and had little effect on serious

QUESTIONS

1. Who was the first Indian to be Mayor of Calcutta? (Manohar Mandal. Nabadwip 2)

2. Who was described by U. Thant, a former Secretary General of the UN, "as a woman for all seasons"? (Shitanshu Shekhar, Bokaro Steel City 1)

3. What is the English equivalent of the Bengali game kit kit? (Biplab Biswas, Calcutta 65)

4. What is common to 'Tokyo Trots', 'Hong Kong Dog', and 'Casablanca Crud'? (Arnab Mukherjee, Calcutta 29)

5. What is common to the following tennis players: ille Nastase, John Newcombe, Jimmy Connors. Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Ivan Lendi, Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg? (Ismatara Khatoon, Burdwarn

8. Which melady was formerly referred to by medical practitioners as "convulsion cerebrale"? (Susmita Menon, Calcutta

Nearly one-fifth of all road accidents in Sweden involves which animal? (G. Rajesh, Calcutta 25) 8. What is hoblology?

(Ehtesham Anium, Calcutta 16)

9. In common language, what is a "Cerebra-Vascular Accident"? (Ranajit Kundu, Serampore)

10. Name the American President who after a military fiasco said, "Success is a bastard. It has many fathers. Failure is an orphan. Nobody owns it." (Manoj Kumar Singh, Patratu 42)

ANSWERS

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emao gnishnsi 9TA eonie LIEVE DEGN FRANKED NO 1 or mem ent ens ecentr. .d

arrinoss. forms of traveller's di-3. Hop-Scotch. 4. They are all different al Assembly.

2: Wire Vievlexmi Pendit, first wognen President of the United Nations Genersed neins 1. Deshbandhu Chittar-

Bargan an ang matin M

dancing.

The truly creative move came from America through a great artist, Isadora Duncan. She turned first to nature for her inspiration, and, to quote her own words. attempted "to seek in nature the fairest forms, and to find the movement which expresses the soul of these forms". To interpret her ideas she had to form a new technique, many of the ideas for which she drew from the Hellenic arts. Her work spread quickly throughout America, France and Germany.

About the same time, an English dancer, Ruby Ginner, was also evolving a technique capable of expressing a wide range of dramatic feeling and emotion. She and other dancers were all to some degree influenced by the ancient Greek ideals of the dance.

The great difference between the revived Greek Dance and the Ballet lies in the fact that the Greek dance is more entirely a dance of gesture rather than of step. In ancient Greece the dance was performed in vast spaces under the open sky, and small intricate steps would hardly have been visible to the audiences rising tier above tier upon the hillside.

Only broad, free steps could have carried the dancer round the great circles of the orchestras. The ancient dance being primarily dramatic and interpretative, gesture was of first importance—a language in itself. Modern Greek dancing naturally followed the same lines. In comparison with the Ballet it is limited in its number of steps, but the gestures and arm movements are far more numerous and varied.

The work of Isadora Duncan spread in France, Germany and America; but in England the Ruby Ginner form of dance has spread farthest. Her school, established in London in 1916. soon gave rise to other centres under trained teachers.

INNER EYE D Bejan Daruwalia

RIES March 21-April 20 Happy days are here again. Love, kids,

socialising, gains and galety keep you busy. Finance depends upon contacts and your ability to circulate, close deals and negotiate. Romance blooms and delights you. Travel is possible for pleasure and profit. Nothing much to worry about your health You could be too busy to attend to the affairs of the home and family.

AURUS

April 21--- May 20 Home, property, collaborations, ties, and a chop and change in your work keep you mighty busy. Those in commission, sales, trading and house building find opportunities to grow & is best to concentrate on work and career though Venus does favour matters of the heart after February 6. Commuting and trips are possible; also you could receive important

EMINI

May 21 - June 20 Tensions reduce. folks become friendly. news will be encouraging and you sail along. The financial side is promising and promotion is fated. Love will have a sweet note. Visitors and ties are foretold. Your health will be in a reasonably good shape. Your family members and friends contribute to your happiness.

ANCER

June 21-July 20 The week's high-lights are emotional tangles and posers, money in the kitty and a round of entertainment. February 8 and 9 are ideal for money and travel. First attend to your work; romance can wait. Preparation for a shift or transfer is not ruled out, so get cracking. Moderation in all things is the key to good health.

July 21-August 21 Personal posers need to be resolved. The home needs fixing. Ceremonies for the living and the dead are to be performed. Romance will be bitter-sweet, and therefore interesting. There will be ups and downs on the financial side. Nevertheless, a deal comes through. Contracts may be signed. The Mercury trine Mars suggests travel and change of office or residence or business.



















IRGO

Your expenses will mount. Legal issues will emerge. Keep relationships with colleagues and subordinates on a stable footing. A job hop in the next three months is likely Romance will be available in small doses. Work takes top priority and you make money. Health remains slightly suspect.

August 22- Sept 22

IBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 22 The main trends of the week are perks, favours and romance. Take a

chance Romance makes you dizzy. Finance promises an excellent going. Visits, interviews, conferences and happy occa-sions could demand you to undertake a journey. No major health problem is foreseen. Changes in the home and family, Kids give joy.

BIRTHDAYS

A change of scenery in the home and family is probable.

February 3

Moon trine Sun: Dancera. actors, traders and those in public relations, electronics and the media find it an excellent birthrear. Marriage is on the cards for the eligible. A year of hustle and bustle and freewheeling.

February 4

Moon square Neptune: Se practical and reasonable, and success is certain. It will just not do to fly off at a tangent and expect people to understand. You too have to adjust and adapt. Jour-ney, publicity and deremony are the other features.

February 5

Mercury conjunction Saturn: The highs and lows will both be The rights and sows will count we yours. Given grit and patience you will succeed, say in April or June. Steer clear of needless lineacial entanglements. Take a slep at a time and avoid get-right achieves.

February 6

Moon's last quarter. Success is your rightful legisty and you will

have it. A birthyear of power and pelf. It would be best to trust your own judgement and get along. Secret helps and influence are assured. Journey will be profitable and contacts will pay. Financial deals will be clinched:

February 7

Venus sextile Uranus: it would be best to have confidence and faith in yourself. While expenses will be there you will earn anough to get over it. Romance and property tall in a happy bracket. Expect strange happer-ings and events to thrill you.

February 8

Moon trine Jubiter: This trine means journey, ceremeny, marriage, collaborations, travel, chidren, grandchildren, trading, sales, agency, commission and a found of publicity. April is the month for these goodles.

February 9

Mercury trine Mara: Mesanges, trips, ties, signing of important deeds and documents, stransgott, communication, rituals, power and progeston Jon Aquadens. This is a good augury for future events.



CORPIO

ah.

Oct 23-Nov 22 The week's main trends are pressures to perform, home and personal factors coming to the fore, loans and funds, and a hurry to get things done. Changes in the nature and scope of your work are probable. Romance will be in snatches and parts, passion will have its say. Take extra health care during the last three days of

AGITTARIUS Nov 23-- Dec 20

the week News and views hold

the key to a better life; trips are likely around February 3 and 4.

Love, laughter and good luck are in store for you. Prepare to move fast. Deals, contracts and negotiations come through. Romance is certainly your birthright as the moon sextiles Jupiter. February 3 to 15 is the ideal period to undertake a long-distance journey. Minor health ailments are possible. Improvements in the home and family are probable.

Legal issues crop up **APRICORN**

Dec 21-- Jan 19

Buying, selling, shopping, trading and a bit of passion thrown in for good measure are the highlights of the week. Around February 5 you meet people who matter. Slight health problems will be there Letters and visitors reach you in a big way. A complete overhauling of the home is not ruled out

QUARIUS

Jan 20 -Feb 18 Romance, engage-ment, marriage, conference, meets, interviews and new appointments are the main features of the week. Your financial graph shows an upward trend. Nothing much to worry about your health. Travel is an important feature in February. Kids,

childbirth and refurbishing con-stitute the home and family affairs.

> ISCES Feb 19--March 20 Hard work, health

problems, expenses, a desire to get away from it all, introspection and financial jug-glery make the week memor-able. Venus in your sign, according to Western astrology, favours contacts and love at all levels. Deals, secret negotiations and hectic communication constitute the financial front. The accent is definitely on communication and correspondence.

COMICS





















. . . .

MOOSE MILLER, By Bob Weber 4 17/1/1



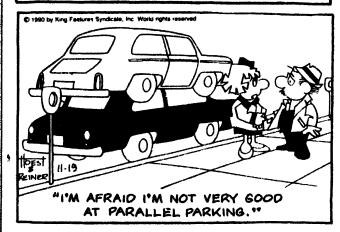
















GARFIELD By Jim Davis

















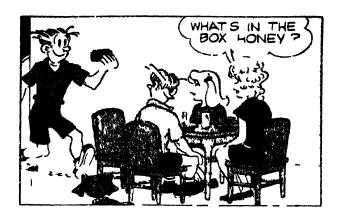


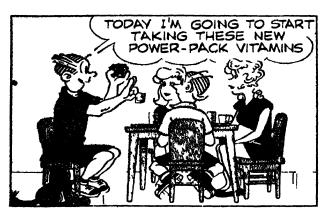


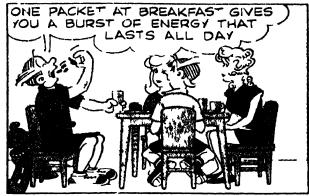
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP

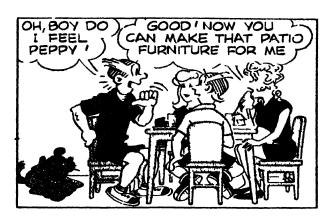




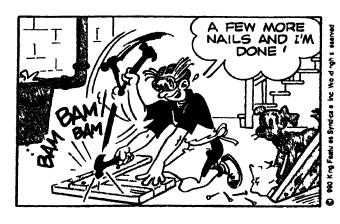


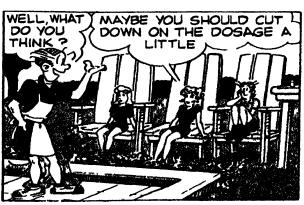












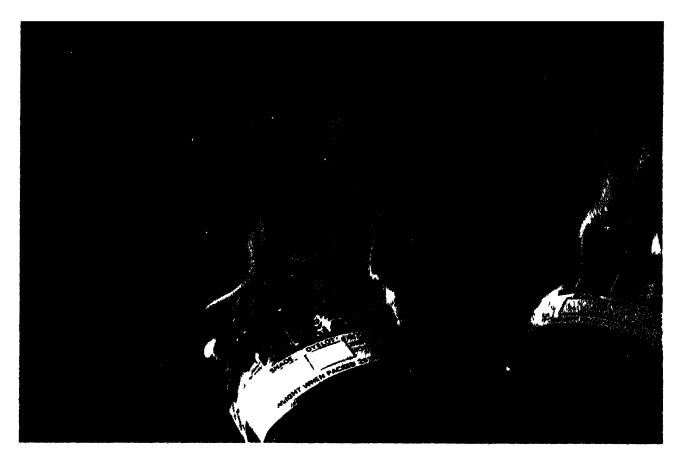
AROUND THE WORLD



THE THREE GANDHIS



Rajiv, Indira and the Mahatma, immortalised in wax at Madame Tussaud's Photographs: **Donald Alney**



When you forecast a blazing year ahead for your product, you surely didn't expect this.

To be optimistic is indeed a positive attitude. Especially about the future. Record sales. Higher profitability. Better working conditions...

But while you look at all the things that should go right, it makes good business sense to consider what could go wrong. A riot that affects your office. A fire in the warehouse. A damaged consignment. An accident in the plant.

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POST MORTEM

Rich Collection Of Kid Stuff

The Children's Special (November 11) was very interesting. But you projected only the works of children from rich families.

You have ignored the ambitions and aspirations of

a 13-year-old, then she's a genius.

But I have a complaint. You rightly dropped all the adult columns in this issue and made it totally by and for children; then why the advertisement of M.P. Jewellers on the back cover? When you could change the born-nude Poonam

Amongst many programmes is the concept of 'Unesco-Clubs' in schools all over the world.

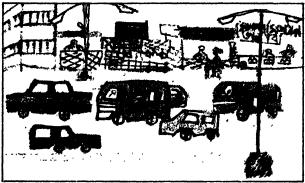
Our Unesco Club at the Kendriya Vidyalaya, No. 2, Ichhapur celebrated the UNO day on October 24, 1990 by highlighting world peace and instilling the values of national peace and international understanding.

The failures of UN were also highlighted. Some of the countries such as India, China, Iran, Congo, Syria, South Africa represented by the students made their allegations against this great organisation.

I think if we children are given the right guidance and awareness it might build confidence in our minds.

Abhinav Chatterjee, Ichhapur

■ Our young friends should remember that all great men had to work hard before they attained distinction. No one achieves success overnight. Patience



By Bijitendra Chatterjee (7 years)

poor children who reside in slums or on the roadside. **Rajendra Sikandar**, Bargarh (Orissa)

- The issue was inspiring. But you should not have limited your coverage to the kids belonging to the upper crust. What about the 'footpath kids'? Who will give them a chance to express themselves? Amar Mondal, Calcutta
- The special issue came like a breath of fresh air. The children expressed their moods excellently both pictorially and in words. While going through the issue, my childhood came back to me. Maitreyi De Sarkar, Calcutta
- We appreciated the issue very much. Swati Apte's contribution, 'When I am the PM', was excellent. Her satiric presentation was the same as mine would have been, but I was over-age. Aditi Sen.

Calcutta

The issue was superb. If the cover was conceived by

Dhillon into a child-fondling Poonam (7 Days), couldn't you have changed the advertisement?

Rudradip Roychowdhury, Burnpur



By Bikram jit Roy (10 years)

■ Somewhere in the process of man's growth, human values seem to have disappeared. And so, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco), a worldwide activity, was formed to promote the importance of such values.

and perseverance are required for every great enterprise. These children have to consciously cultivate their talents for painting and writing to attain perfection by slow degrees.

grees.
Roy George,
Dimapur (Nagaland)

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

10 FEBRUARY 1991



Who is Medha Patkar? Is she a bird, an aeroplane or a superwoman fighting hard for the cause of the tribals in Gujarat who will be severely affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project? Yes, she's the dedicated social activist who's been hitting headlines.

The International Film Festival of India in Madras had its usual share of the good and the bad films. And, psst! The hot ones, too

SECTIONS

Panorama

\$\frac{\mathbb{C}}{\text{Heritage}}\$

20 7 Days

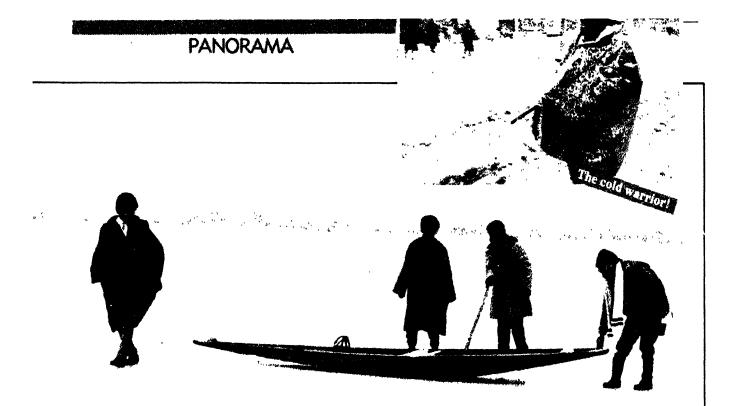
23 Junior Whirl

24 Quiz.

25 Comics

30 Curry Curry Curry

Cover: Gautam Patole



Trying to get a shikara out of the completely frozen Dai Lake

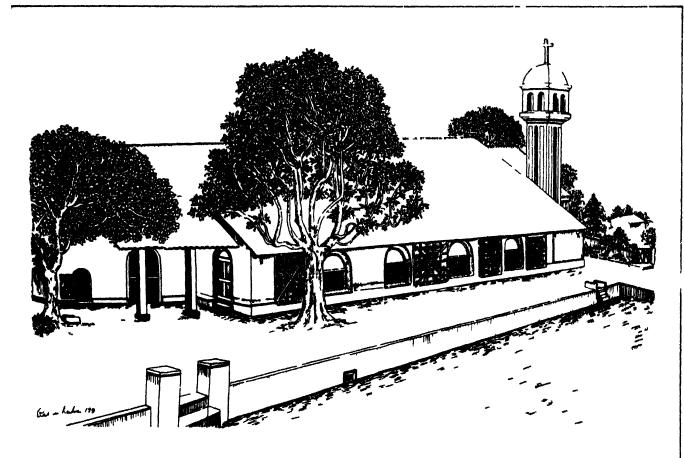
BRRR!

Winter has been particularly severe this time. Srinagar, for instance, presents a vision in white

Cicles suspended from he roof of the Grindlays he roof of the Grindlays



THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY



The Church of the Epiphany, Behala, in south Calcutta, belongs to the Oxford Mission. It is one of the branches of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of the Epiphany in India and Bangladesh.

The story begins in 1899 when Edward Ralph Johnson, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, wrote to Marsham Argles in Oxford to send some university men to work especially among the students of Calcutta University Argles was then principal of St Stephen's House, Oxford, a new theological college with special missionary interests He consulted his friends and teachers, and on October 18, 1879, called a meeting in his room in Christ Church, Oxford, which was attended by

10 leading churchmen and dons Then and there they decided to respond to Bishop Johnson's appeal to establish the Oxford Mission in Calcutta, which should be a religious brotherhood with its base in India rather than a missionary society with its roots and headquarters in England

The chapel was built in 1909 It was designed according to the ideas of Father Douglas of the Brotherhood (Oxford Mission) The building work was carried out by C John Grimes (later Archdeacon), who was then working as a civil engineer with the Calcutta Port Commissioners

The main idea was to have a simple building of a

local type with a skeletal steel structure and corrugate d iron roof thatched with palm fronds It was then decided that it would be good to add some brick walls a stone floor and a bell tower to house the chapel bell. The bell tower was constructed of brick in an Italianate or Campanile style (though the style obviously had links with some Byzantine or Asian tower shapes) with a teak dome originally painted white and a cross in gold. Be cause of the expenses of repair the thatching was removed in the middle of this century, and the roof is now of brick red painted corrugated iron with some darma lining underneath

The chapel and the com munities who worship here be long to the Church of North India

NCSTALGIA " "

The saga of the Calcutta Cricket Club is inextricably linked with the history of the Eden Gardens. Writing in 1956, J.H. Moorhouse quotes cricket scholar Irving Rosenwater to tell us that cricket was played in Calcutta between the CCC and teams from Barrackpore and Dum Dum. This was reported in the Madras Courier in its issue of February 23, 1792.

With the year 1792 authenticated by various sources of research and acknowledged by Wisden, the Calcutta Cricket Club acquires the reputation of being the oldest cricket club outside Britain.

Although the venue of the match or matches cannot be ascertained now, it is reasonably assumed to have been played on the Maidan opposite the Governor's House at the site of the present Mohammedan Sporting ground. This is borne out by the assertion of researchers who credit this hallowed plot of land to be the place where teams representing the Old Etonians and Calcutta took part in a cricket mnatch on January 18 and 19, 1804.

Here, it would be of interest to know that the first mention of cricket played in India can be found in Clement Downing's A Compendious History of the Indian Wars (London, 1737) where Downing observes, The Cricket Club of
Calcutta, the original
owner of Eden Gardens,
steps into its 200th year.
Raju Mukherji writes
about the oldest cricket
club outside Britain

"When my boat was lying for a fortnight (in 1721) in some channel in the Gulf of Cambay...we everyday diverted ourselves with playing cricket and other exercises which they (the locals) would come and be spectators of..."

These haphazard games played at random surely did not herald the beginning of organised cricket in India. Erudite researcher Narendranath Ganguly in his well-documented book, Calcutta Cricket Club: Its Origin and Development (Calcutta 1936), would have us acknowledge the match between the Etonians and Calcutta

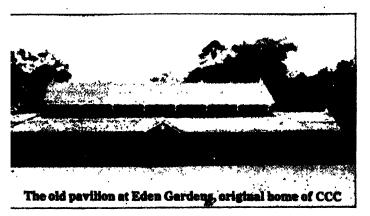
as the first formal, recorded cricket match played in Calcutta and, for lack of any evidence to the contrary, in India as well.

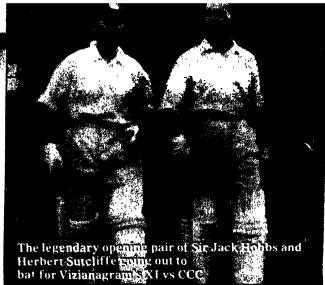
The participants of the match were drawn from the civil servants based in Bengal, between those who had gone to Eton and those who had not. Recorded reports confirm that the match was played on the commons south of the Government House (now Raj Bhavan) on January 18 and 19, 1804. Another reference to an early cricket match played at Calcutta on March 23, 1836, may be traced to Emily Eden's Letters from India (1838):

"Calcutta, Wednesday, March 23, 1836. Charles Cameron is just as fond of cricket as he was in Eden Farm days, and he and Sii E. Ryan (the Chief Justice) have established a cricket club, and when we drove through their gardens the Calcutta Eleven were playing the officers of the 'Jupiter' and the 'Hyacinthe'. It looked pretty and English and brought back visions of Prince's Plain."

This match was not played on the spot just south of the Government House, but on the land between Government House and the Fort William where the Customs ground is at present. The reason for the shift-of venue was that by 1825 the men in the Company's Civil Service in Bengal had







managed to acquire a more permanent setting with a banyan tree on the eastern boundary. This banyan tree served as the pavilion and is still to be seen, though not as proudly erect as before, at the junction of Plassey Gate Road and Gostho Pal Sarani.

Around 1841 the club was allowed to put up wooden enclosures around the ground. However, by 1863 a portion of the ground to the east was requisitioned by the government for the construction of a new approach road to Fort William. This road is the present Plassey Gate approach to Fort William from Gostho Pal Sarani.

The members of the CCC put up a fervent appeal to the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, the Honorable Cecil Beadon to save the ground. Although the Lieutenant Governor was initially agreeable that the "..road should be curved as the cricketers desire..." so as not to encroach on their ground, ultimately he decided not to interfere with the expert advice of Sir R. C. Napier, the Military Member of the

Council of India, who felt that the temporary inconvenience to the cricketers should not "...induce the Governor to sanction an inferior arrangement of the road, an arrangement which will last for eyer."

The Lieutenant Governor, however, promised to provide the cricketers with alternative arrangements and also to bear the expenses involved in setting up the new ground. He even left the banyan tree undisturbed as he wrote in a letter dated February 26, 1864, that "about the Tree, it is all sentiment."

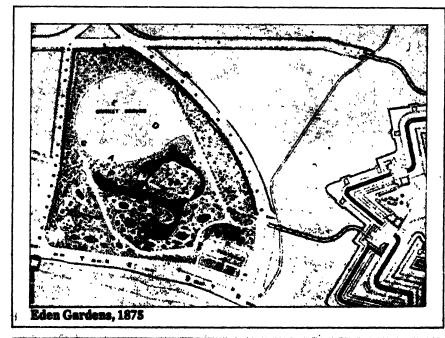
The representation having been rejected both by the Government of India and the Bengal government, around April 15, 1864, the Calcutta Cricket Club moved over to where the world famous Eden Gardens cricket ground resides today. This blessed land since that day in 1864 was left for the exclusive use of the CCC. When the CCC finally bequeathed the ground to the National Cricket Club in 1950, the curtain fell on a glorious chapter of Indian cricket.

Folkfore has different versions regarding the original ownership of the parkland that today is famous the world over as Eden Gardens. It is quite likely that the property belonged to the Raja of Cooch Behar, who had estates all over the city. Another view is that the land was the treasured possession of the Auckland family for it was known as Auckland Circus Gardens at least till about 1850.

Whatever be the proportion of myth to reality there is no doubt that subsequently the beautiful park was owned and nursed by the Eden sisters, who were the sisters of the Governor General himself. In time they presented the ground to the citizens of Calcutta for recreation and enjoyment. And most appropriately the name 'Eden' stuck to provide cricket lovers with the pleasures of the lost world.

The sylvan surroundings of the Eden Gardens enabled the Britishers to relive the enjoyment of their summer game in the pleasant Calcutta winter. By 1871 an exquisite structure of a hut of imported teak served as the pavilion. From the walls looked down the greats of the past as the present heroes got ready for the battles ahead. The billiard table gave succour to those who had had a bad day. The neatly attired 'abdaars' were courtesy and competence combined. The place was a cosy corner of infinite charm. Alas! That pavilion is no more.

After having been a witness to more than a 100 years of cricket history, from the pioneers to Raniit and Maclaren (with I. Zingari in 1904) to Hobbs and Sutcliffe (with Vizianagram's side in 1930) to all the heroes of the mid-Seventies, the pavilion came under the noose of crass commercialisation. An act of barbaric proportions reduced Calcutta's glorious heritage to cinders as the vast concrete bowl came up in 1976. An act of sacrilege which has no recompense. If only, if only it had been preserved as a museum, today, it would have become a site for cricketing pilgrimage. Heritage lay throttled in the name of modernisation. One can well believe those who say today that they have never visited Eden since.



ADVICE FOR THE HOPELESS

Dear Dr Know, there's a girl down the street whom I'd like to take to dinner, a movie. and a lot more. Every time we meet, though, instead of asking her I just freeze up. What should I do? (A.B., Midnapore)

A: Next time, ask her.

Q: Dear Dr Know, after reading your column. I have concluded that it would be more aptly called advice from, not for, the hopeless. (B.C., Tokyo)

A: Since when are you writing

Q: Dear Dr Know, the roads in Calcutta are in a state of disrepair, and hazardous for vehicles. Every six months, I have to buy a new car. How

... For what it's worth

can I avoid this uncalled-for expenditure? (E.F., Hungerford Street)

A: Move to Delhi.

Q: Dear Dr Know, every time I eat garlic, my left big toe itches terribly. (G.H., Lakshadweep)

A: Scratch hard.

Q: Dear Dr Know, my boyfriend does not enjoy sex with me. He says I am hopeless at it. I am afraid he will leave me for someone else. How can I keep him happy? (I.J., Sealdah)

A: Try chess.

Q: Dear Dr Know, I think you are a mean, disgusting person. What's more, I'm sure you are ugly, obnoxious, and a bore. (K.L., Manupur)

A: Your first-born will be limb-

Q: Dear Dr Know, I have an old collection of 30 Bessie Smith records, which some of your readers might be interested in. I would willingly either exchange them for 15 Depeche Mode CDs, or sell them at forty-two rupees apiece. (M.N., Park Circus) A: I'll give you something for

them—a garbage bag. Q: Dear Dr Know, my friend and I were arguing over the number of reverse-scoop goals Vece Paes had scored. He said a hundred, and I said ninety. Do you know the exact figure? (O.P., Hoogly)

O: Dear Dr Know, I have been trying to become a member of a certain exclusive club. whose name and location I enclose. Each time, they have come up with some poor excuse, and rejected me. (Q.R., Salt Lake)

A: I probably would too, if I

knew you.

O: Dear Dr Know, in your last column, I believe you made an error when you mentioned the seven wives of Henry the Eighth. In fact, he had six. (S.T., Brussels)

A: Remember the night your bed was empty? Ask your wife

who had whom then.

O: Dear Dr Know, what's the quickest way to stop my 12year-old from biting his nails? (U.V., Shakespeare Sarani)

A: Cut off his fingers.

Q: Dear Dr Know, I don't really have a question. I just wanted to see my name in print

A: We didn't like it.

Q: Dear Dr Know, during the last corporation elections, I was stopped from voting with a gun. (W.X., Theatre Road) A: Why would you want to

vote with a gun? Q: Dear Dr Know, je ne t'aime

nas (Y.Z., Paris)

A: Take your dictionnaire, and you know where you can le mettre.

O: Dear Dr Know, I am a reasonably attractive woman, but have pimples all over my face. Please give me a remedy. (**, Behala)
A: Grow a beard.

Q: Dear Dr Know, I am a fairly good-looking man, but with huge boils all over my head.

(**, Kerala)

A: You can't be all that good-

looking, then.

Q: Dear Dr Know, I am an alcoholic. Every night I drink bocci balls, wallbangers and fuzzy navels until I wake up with an awful headache. What's to be done? (Name and address withheld)

A: Try adding a little more orange juice.

Rauf Gangee



INNER EYE Deign Daruwalla

March 21-April 20

RIES

The new moon acts as a blitzkrieg in terms of romance and fun, and that keeps you in high spirits. Loans and funds will be available for a project or for meeting your expenses on a holiday trip or for house building. Do expect friends and visitors to drop in. Expenses will mount, but you will succeed in having a ball.



AURUS

April 21-May 20 Like the Ariens, socially, you too will have a stimulating week as Mars

sextiles Jupiter. It would be best to compromise on issues that have vexed you and caused enough heart-burning. Changes in the nature and scope of your work are also destined, so get set for them. A home away from home is not ruled out.



EMINI

May 21-June 20 It is time to make

your presence felt as Venus (the arts) trines Pluto (power). Your nimble wit helps you to make friends. Children will be a source of inspiration. A journey is in the offing. It will also be a newsy week with calls and letters pouring in. Contacts will lead to contracts.



ANCER

June 21---July 20

The loiter bomb may home in on targets.

You too will cash in on money and popularity, thanks to the moon's last quarter. Take adequate health safeguards. February 15 and 16 are for news, views, good events and happy tidings. You will be able to launch a new project or start a different activity, if so interested.



July 21---August 21 You will be able to

throw your opponents off stride and it seems that legal battles and confrontations are more than possible. So, gird up your loins and plan a strategy. An engagement or a marriage is on the cards for the eligible and fancy-free. The same holds true for collaborations. Renovations, decorations, buying and selling are other the salient features.



IRGO

August 22-Sept 22 You will communicate with the fire and

have the precision of the torna-

















do! Venus (charm) sextiles Neptune (inspiration) and, therefore, artists, actors, poets and musicians will give in their best. Children and grandchildren give joy and delight.



IBRA

Sept 23-Oct 22 A touch of class and

excellence to everything you do, as the moon (mind) sextiles sun (glory and fame). It would be best, therefore, to go all out for the kill. Children give satisfaction, romance blooms, favours will be granted and you will be heard. If pending chores and assignments are not completed this week, they will surely be done in the next week



CORPIO

Oct 23 -- Nov 22

The week signifies romance, children,

and plenty of activity on the

home and work fronts. Therefore, never a dull moment as the moon's last quarter (February 6) will fully activate you. The health of parents, in-laws and elders might cause serious concern. That's the fly in the ointment It will also pay to take health precautions personally as you will have too many irons in the fire.



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23 -Dec 20 Immigration, secret work, journey, corres-

pondence, contacts, visits and rendezvous will have an added dimension as Saturn, according to Western astrology, has changed signs By April you will feel its beneficial effects fully. Those in advertising, reporting, broadcasting, research, law. land, building, development, sales and agency do stand to benefit a great deal



APRICORN

Dec 21 - Jan 19 The hi-tech war may

beam into American living rooms, but you will beautify, redesign and alter the furniture of your home and office as the moon conjuncts Neptune, the planet of art and adornment. The two main directions of the week are finance at all levels and, emotionally charged personal matters. Child conception, love and relationships are naturally emphasised in personal matters. A clear case of burning the



candle at both ends.

QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You will move very fast as Mercury does

a 100 metres dash in your sign, according to Western astrology, favouring kids, travel, education, research, academics, business, import-export, modelling, acting, agency and brokerage. Your love life gets a rocket boost. Some confusion in the early part of the week is possible. However, it will be sorted out eventual-



ISCES

Feb 19 -- March 20 You will hit your

target directly and accurately as the mon conjuncts Venus. However, expenses will be heavy. Your foreign connections and ties will be much in evidence during the next three weeks. Financial deals and entertainment are a distinct possibility. A separation from a loved one is not ruled out

BIRTHDAYS

February 10

Venus sextile Neptune; Expenses will multiply. Journeys and distant places will entice you. Trust your intuitions. Those in import-export, trade, commission, the arts and electronics win laurels. You will get help from. unexpected quarters. Buying and selling will figure prominent-

February 11

Moon sextile Pluto: Your work will be appreciated. Happy events, such as marriage, child-birth, journeys and celebrations, are quite in order for you. A mafor shift or a house move is probable. Renovation, decoration, buying and selling are also some of the major trends.

February 12

Mars sextile Jupiter: Mars (force) and Jupiter (good luck) blend happity for you. The full impact of it will be felt from March 21. Be well organised and muticulous. Your luck will hold in property transactions and business matters. Marriage is on the cards for the eligible and widow-

February 13

Moon-Mercury conjunction:

This conjunction favours traders, bankers, lawyers and those dealing in elactronics. Leans and funds will be available. You will have the energy and zest to make and carry out plans successfully.

February 14

New moon: The new moon helps you in new beginnings and ventures. The Venus trine Pluto also helps you to undertake new positions of responsibility and trust. Romance, good fortune, comforts and luxuries keep you happy and feeling fulfilled.

February 15

Moon square Mars: Accidents and operations are not ruled out. But it all depends on your personal horoscope, so there is no need to panic. Those in the arts, crafts, science and research work do splendidly. Some per-sonal problems will surface and must be tackled astutely.

February 16

Moon sextile Uranus-Neptune: This is a money year for Aquatians. Traders, businessmen, exporters, importers, salesman, journalists, copywriters, hoteliers, actors, poets and writers, get termendous mileage out of the new year. Children and grandchildren will be a source of Юÿ.

COVERSTOR

CRUSADER



Her lips are parched. Her throat bone dry. On a fast unto death for a week, Medha Patkar occasionally reaches for a red plastic tumbler allowing herself a sip of water. The hands of her wristwatch are edging towards noon and the unrelenting winter sun is beating down on the cracked and fields. Last night trozen and inky black is only a memory.

Leader of the Narmada Bachao Ando lan which seeks to stop construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) Medha Patkar is stretched out on a dirt-encrusted duice her greving hair untidily framed against the plump dusty pillow. A week of fasting has reduced her voice to a whisper, the smudges under her eyes are darker, but she defiantly shrugs off her exhaustion. The struggie will continue till the government orders a comprehensive review of the SSP. They must stop all work on the site they must stop clearing forests and acquiring tribal land.

Smells of winter and raw tobacco fill the air. The dust swirls. Spindly saplings sway

This lady is not for damning. Gutsy and articulate, Medha Patkar is spearheading the campaign to stop the gigantic Sardar Sarovar Project, which threatens not only the environment of the entire Narmada region but also the future of a large number of tribals. SRINJOY CHOWDHURY reports

Photographs: Gautam Patole

in the breeze as a group of girls in ghagras and cholis chant the war cres of Sanghar shgaon (the Narmada Bachao Andolan activists' name for their camp on the Madhya Pradesh-Gujarat border), their thin voices amplified by the scratchy microphones hooked to a generator on a tractor "Koi nahin hatega, baandh nahin banega" and "Laathi goli khayenge, Nimar ko bachayenge" and "Hindi, Marathi ya Gujarati, ladne walon ki ek jaati" Medha Patkar leans forward, claping her hands in encouragement "Bahut achchha, bahut achchha You have given me so much josh (enthusiasm) Ab khane peene ki zaroorat nahin," she exclaims

Applause ripples through the shamiana, as patrician kisans, with bristling moustaches and stubbly claims bare-legged tribal women and young activists, the men bearded and bespectacled, join in "Sardar Sarovar kya karega" asks someone The full-throated roar of 500 voices in unison follows 'Sabka satyanash karega " Pause A couple of drumbeats "Jangal zameen

apne aap ki hai "The friendly roar follows 'Nahin kisike baap ki hai '

Seated in the shamiana beside six activists also on hunger strike, and some 500 'green troops"—mostly farmers and tribals -Medha Patkar is speaking to a group of fellow travellers of a more recent vintage, all of them overawed and jeaned young men who arrived this morning Painstakingly, Medha Patkar explains her cause to the attentive young men. The Rs 12,000-ctore Sardar Sarovar Project would innundate rich croplands and pristine forests causing irreparable environ mental damage. The thousands of evicted farmers and tribals she argues, her tone tinged with persuasion, will never get proper compensation lives will be affected, a lifestyle will disappear

In the name of development greed has transcended need, she says, shooting down the government and pro-dam activists' arguments that it will provide drinking water to the people of Gujarat, irrigation facilities and hydel power Himanshu Thakkar, a young activist, hovers nearby protectively "Let Medha lest She is get ting tired," he says

After a flurity of speeches, the NBA activists assembled at Raighat Bridge on the banks of the Narmada on Christmas Day last year Ahead lay Sardar Sarovar, the dam site, and Kevadia, the sparkling concrete township of opulent guest nouses and regulation government housing estates on the banks of the Narmada Baba Amte, the ailing angel of the leper ishrams, walked a few symbolic paces and hen accompanied the marchers in his imbulance Swami Agnivesh fuelled early



'I realised that only mass mobilisation will help. The courts are for dumping problems and locking them up. We urgently needed to reach out to the tribals'



It is in Bombay that the story of Medha Patkar begins over three decades ago. Her trade unionist parents taught her militancy, her schooling in a Marathi medium gave her a healthy disregard for 'ivory-towerism'

passions but left early. Only Medha Pat. kar marched all the way at the torefront the symbol of protest, an unstoppable hery green Four days later, at Ferkuva on the Gujarat Madhya Pradesh border the mar chers collided with a phalaix of khaki as swarms of pro-dam activists stood on guard

"The march taught us brotherhood. The march taught us to share. What has satis fied me the most is the feeling of unity between the tribals of the Vindhyas and the Satpuras and the peasants of the Nimar region. The tribals carried their grain with them, the farmers brought tractors and now, they are feeding all the tribals. It is not charity it is brotherhood."

More than the shortage of food fodder and funds, the NBA activists teared the cold "It was 2°C or 3°C when we got here. Ferkuva wasn't supposed to be the last stop. There were no arrangements, we lay in the open at night. Sleep was impossible, our bodies craved for warmth but there wasn't any," said Brian Lobo a Kashtakarı Sangathan worker from Born

t is in Bombay that the story of Medha Patkar begins over three decades ago Her trade unionist parents taught her mili tancy, her schooling in a Marathi medium gave her a healthy disregard for 'ivory towerism' "I spent a lot of time dream ing I wanted to do something good, perhaps be a village doctor 'After study ing chemistry at Ruia College, and community development at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Patkar did her doctoral

work on slum dwellers. 'But my heart was with the tribals ' In 1985, Patkar came to the Narmada Valley with an advocate from Delhi who wanted legal action "She did nothing and I realised that only mass mobihsation will help. The courts are for dump ing problems and locking them up. We urgently needed to reach out to the trib

From her wrist dangles a bracelet. In scribed on it are the words Medha Patkar repeatedly states. Hum nahm hatenge, baandh nahin banne denge! Adds Patkar "The deprivation of the natural resource base because of development is causing problems. The so called modern systems are destroying tribal life styles

In short stacatto bursts. Medha Patkar shoots down the paper promises and empty reassurances about resettlement of the project affected people (PAP) 'They have no plans ready they have things on paper that too because of our pressure. The SSP's plans to rehabilitate project affected people are nonimplementable about 50 per cent of the people even in the submerged zone fishermen tubals poor farmers have been overlooked. The three states (Gu jarat MP and Maharashtra) don't have a common policy. Land to settle every displaced person is just not available. There is no plan and no political will

With a wave of her hand. Patkar dismisses the model resettlement centres for the PAPs as showpieces. They can settle a few villages. They are depending on private land in Gujarat and forest land in Maharashtra, which is unjust because secondary displacement is involved. A



In short staccato bursts. Medha Patkar shoots down 'the paper promises and empty reassurances' about the resettlement of the project-affected people

THE OTHER WOMAN

While chief minister Chimanbhai Patel shuttles between New Delhi and Gandhinagar, drumming up support for the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP), Urmilaben, his fiesty wife, waits at the frontline of Ferkuva tirelessly rallying pro-dam agitators After leading the chorus of Raghipati Raghava Raja Ram, Baba ko sammati de Bhagwan, Mrs Patel sits crosslegged on a mattress, hunched over a quick meat of puris and sambar

Principal of a college, Urmilaben has been camping in Ferkuva since December 29, sometimes sleeping in a white Ambassador car belonging to the state government "Panr", she says softly, and a young attendant dips a plastic cup into a metal bucket and pours water into a stainless steel tumb-

that all pro-dam agitators were policemen in multi. But now he says that the pro-dam agitators are the voice of the people and adds that he is not against the people of Saurashtra getting water.

Baba Amte has renounced nonviolence He is in the hands of the anti-dam agitators. See all the slogans they wrote on the walls about breaking the dam. He even wanted to go back twice, but the anti-dam agitators did not let him go.

Q: The anti-dam agitators believe that once they are displaced they won't find

A: Acquiring land is not their problem. We will find it for them. Let them come to us first. We will buy land from the people of Gujarat. We will give them good land. I am making an open offer to



'I am making an open offer to all the anti-dam agitators in Ferkuva. Come and see me and I will give you land'

ler Her meal over, Mrs Patel, sitting beside piles of firewood and packets of spray dried skimmed milk powder in the pro-dam activists' shamiana, gets leady to speak to The Talegraph

Q: You have never been at the forefront of political activity. Why have you suddenly become a full-time campaigner?

A: The project is very vital for the people of Gujarat We've had a bad time recently There was a severe drinking water shortage because of the drought. We had to spend Rs 15,000 crores ferrying water by train and by tankers Besides, the ground water levels in the villages are falling. In the past, you got water at 300-400 feet, now you have to bore wells about 600 feet deep And very soon, we'll be at the 1,000 feet level

Q: Do you believe that Baba Amte is well-meaning, but slightly misguided?

A: He is not slightly misguided, he is totally misguided. His statements are also contradictory. Initially, he said that he wouldn't be allowed to talk to the people of Gujarat. Then he said

all the anti-dam agritators in Ferkuva. Come and see me and I will give you land.

Q: The construction of the SSP will cause tremendous environmental dam-

A: I drove down to Barwam (in MP) yesterday You won't see dense forests in the area. And we will plant 40 trees for each one we cut down. We have already begun afforestation work. Q: Why are you building one big dam! Why not build a few smaller dams! It might cause less environmental dams.

A: The Narmada is not just the only big river, it is the only river that can supply adequate amounts of water. If there were smaller nivers in the area, we could have smaller dams. Besides, Jawaharial Nehru wanted the Narmada dam. The Umon finance and environment departments want the dam. The World Bank wants the dam. They Baha Amte is saying admething, tomorrow somedas else will say tomorrow.

cold anger burns in her eyes "What about the 60,000 people whose lands have been taken away to build canals leading from the dam? They haven't been included. And the tribals? They have rejected the forest land because other tribals will be affected. The environment department says that no forest land will be given out"

No one has accepted her moral chal-lenge Or heeded Baba Amte's heated rhetoric Not the government of Gujarat, not the Centre, not the World Bank which has loaned Rs 700 crore for the dam Six per cent of the project work-construction of the dam site, the lake where water is stored, the canals, the allotment of resettlement sites—is complete Very soon. the forests will fall to the developers' axe A haze of concrete dust will shroud a land that was lush and verdant The NBA may be fighting a losing battle "Phansi ka phanda taiyar hai But till they put the noose around our necks, we will fight I can't accept that the dam will be built. I have the confidence The years I have spent organising the tribals won't go to waste They won't submit They say it is a symbolic struggle

From pressure groups, grudging support is finally forthcoming "The human rights groups are getting closer. The environmentalists accept the forest dwellers have primary rights. They have come a step beyond merely saying that tribals have a right to use the forest. The tribals, they realise, are the protectors of environmental and social values."

But won't the hunger sap her strength, reducing the activists' morale? "My hunger strike will only boost their morale It will strengthen them The people are joining up The people are on our side." Seven days of fasting had not broken her spirit. "This fast has to be indefinite. Jaan lagake karna hoga. We have to see if our leaders have a conscience. We have to see if they have any political will."

very activist at Sangharshgaon exudes La steely resolve They are united, they have more to lose than their lands and their livelihood Under a leafy mango tree in the fields squat four kisan activists in dhous, determined to save their lands They are destroying the country in the name of development Lakhs of people will be uprooted and whole villages submerged by the waters of the dam's reservoir You call that development? I call it destruc-tion," says 60-year-old Sobharam, a yellow and black samarpand (those who have are willing to sacrifice their lives to stop the dam) scarf, round his neck From Undiya village, in Barwani, MP, 61-year-old Jagannath Patiday, his cheeks covered with silvery stubble, is determined to stay at Sangharshgaon till the government re-lents "We are staying My village will be submerged, my family has lived there for



The uprooted of the earth

800 years. I want to live there. So does my son. I want to live peacefully, but the SS dam will destroy everything." Narmada Prasad Chaturvedi is 81, short-sighted and stoops, but he walked all the way from Barwani. A frayed Gandhi topi, tilted on one side sits uneasily on his head. He wants the height of the dam to be reduced by 100 feet. "I have been trying for three years. Why should I stop now?" he asks. Fiftyfive-year-old Bhajibhai Tadvi of Undva, Gujarat, was one of the earliest sufferers. Eleven years ago, the government took away his 20 acres. "The government is doing good things to others. Why do I have to suffer?" he asks.

True, the government has some land, but it is not enough, so it is promising the same land to everyone, says Noorji Kal-

chia Parve, a tribal from Denir, Maharashtra. In a clearing lit by the last light of the dying sun, Rampyari (40) of Pimpri village is preparing a meal: a no-frills khitchri. Her family has 30 acres: it will all go under water. All around her stand the tractors, gleaming in the evening sun. "This talk of land for resettlement is lies, all lies, sub jhoot hai. Besides, we want our land, not the government's." Not far away, sits Manick Bhawad, a tribal from Maharashtra. "We have come to help our brothers. Nobody pays attention to the poor. If the dam is ever built, we'll break it," says this Kashtakari Sangathan worker in Warli, a tribal dialect.

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Parked outside are police jeeps, government vehicles and orange and white vans for bringing in people to Ferkuva. Tied to a nearby tree are six frisky horses belonging to the Baroda Police. But Urmilaben Patel, wife of chief minister Chimanbhai Patel and leader of the pro-dam activists.

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Like their counterparts on the other side of the border, the pro-dammers believe they have a mission. The prosperity of Gujarat, believes Suren Chowksi, depends on the dam. "We need the electricity for the new factories and the sugar mills," says Chowksi, president of the Central Gujarat Chamber of Commerce. R.B. Parmer, a farmer of Bharuch, wants

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THE BABA LIVES

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"His health has deteriorated. It is the dust and the tensions, but he is as gutsy and spirited as ever," says Vikas Amte, the Baba's eldest son. "It is a losing battle really, but the war will be won," hopes Vikas.

Long ago, the Dalai Lama asked Baba Amte whether he believed in reincarnation. "We must live a series of lives in one life," Baba Amte countered. Baba (then Devidas Murlidhar) Amte has lived many lives—the privileged son of wealthy landowners, the successful attorney, and then, founder of the leprosy ashrams and now, crusader for environmental and tribal concerns.

Bedridden because of a bone ailment, Baba Amte bristles with defiance. Apart from the white khadi shirt and kaccha, the Baba wears the yellow and black scarf worn by activists prepared to sacrifice their lives for the cause.

Q: Why are you against the Sardar Sarovar Project?

A: I haven't singled out the Narmada. I'm against all big dams. It is not the question of height. It is a struggle for the rights of man. Why should other people decide our fate?

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water to save the countryside from drought. "Water is a luxury in some parts of our state. And here, Baba Amte is talking about submerged land and the des-

troyed environment.

The project, advocate S.I. Rathore believes, will provide electricity and irrigation facilities, though he acknowledges that some people will be affected. "It will be one per cent loss and 99 per cent gain," says Rathore, who attributes the anti-dam agitation to petty politics. During the last election, the BJP told voters in MP that it would stop the project for political gains, he says. A more convincing argument comes from Chunibhai Vaid. "Four districts need the water desperately. We need the drinking water and the water for |

irrigation. With the increase in population, the demand for water is rising. The SSP will only partially solve the problem.

"Look at our position," appeals Vaid, a spare, ascetic Sarvodaya leader. "Water levels are falling. We are being forced to drink fossil water which has a high flouride content. We cannot let all the Narmada water flow into the Arabian Sea." Calmly and considerately Vaid spares a thought for the project-affected people. "If the people refuse to move from their lands they will have to be forcibly evicted. We cannot stop now. The nation has taken a decision. Okay, one lakh people will be affected, but two crore people will benefit. And our rehabilitation facilities are the best in the world."

Among the beneficiaries is Mungalia Bairago, a Bhil. This turbanned and earringed tribal's village will disappear under the waters of the Sardar Sarovar Lake, but he has been given five acres of irrigated land, "Baba Amte is misguided on the issue. Even the project-affected people are on our side," says Hariballabh Parikh, a tribal leader. "I have opposed the government on many issues. I think the government also makes mistakes, but I support the dam," Vaid adds.

he white Ambassador bumps over the cratered roads, past knots of cheering children, and women, balancing brass pots on their heads. Cattle with long curving horns wander around, a stately camel

NCE MU

Besides if the dams are constructed, the socio-economic profile of the people won't improve. The only trade left for us will be the flesh trade. The tribals in India are more isolated than the Sikhs in Puniab.

Q: But the people of Gujarat need the dam. There is a severe water shortage in Saurashtra and Kutch.

A: The parched lips of Saurashtra and Kutch have first claim to the waters of the Narmada. It is not a question of drinking water. It is the brute hunger for size. What is the need to always have the biggest dam and the biggest railway platform and to violate nature? Building the dam will be perpetuating a national folly. The people of Saurashtra sent me hate mail. But the same people later came and sought my blessings.

Q: Your fight is against all odds. A: It is a fight till the end. The just place for a just man in an unjust society is jail or death.

Q: Is there any solution in sight?

A: We all know that every problem has a solution. Even now, there is a way out. I am the most condemned man. I am condemned to success. I demand a national debate on these projects. It is a national problem. And national problems have national solutions. I am against violence because I am against violence. If this callousness continues, the Narmada will be swollen with the tears of the people. If the SSP is the lifeline of Gujarat, it is also the deathline of Gujarat.

Q: You have refused to negotiate...

A: You cannot be threatened and negotiate at the same time.

Q: The pro-dam agitators claim you have renounced non-violence.

A: I am not a hatyagrahi. I am a satyagrahi. On the first day here,

policemen in plainclothes opposed us. When I fainted, the pro-dam agitators beat their drums and rejoiced and sang. They thought I was dead. They threaten me. They shout all night so I

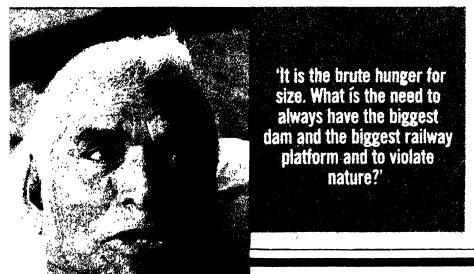


can't sleep. But I am still here.

Look all around you. Why are there so many homeguards? Thank God, I have not been arrested for outraging the modesty of women homeguards.

Q: The government of Gujarat claims that all project-affected people will be settled.

A: No sane economist will believe that enough land can be given for resettling tribals. The tribal belts of India carry the best geological blessings. But look at the tribals today. They live half-man half-animal.



CRUSADER



er lips are parched. Her throat bone-dry. On a fast unto death for a week, Medha Patkar occasionally reaches for a red plastic tumbler, allowing herself a sip of water. The hands of her wristwatch are edging towards noon and the unrelenting winter sun is beating down on the cracked, arid fields. Last night, frozen and inky-black, is only a memory.

Leader of the Narmada Bachao Andolan, which seeks to stop construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP), Medha Patkar is stretched out on a dirt-encrusted duree, her greying hair untidily framed against the plump, dusty pillow. A week of fasting has reduced her voice to a whisper, the smudges under her eyes are darker, but she defiantly shrugs off her exhaustion. "The struggle will continue till the government orders a comprehensive review of the SSP. They must stop all work on the site, they must stop clearing forests and acquiring tribal land.

Smells of winter and raw tobacco fill the air. The dust swirls. Spindly saplings sway

This lady is not for damning. Gutsy and articulate, Medha Patkar is spearheading the campaign to stop the gigantic Sardar Sarovar Project, which threatens not only the environment of the entire Narmada region but also the future of a large number of tribals. SRINJOY CHOWDHURY reports

Photographs: Gautam Patole

in the breeze as a group of girls in ghagras and cholis chant the war cries of Sangharshgaon (the Narmada Bachao Andolan activists' name for their camp on the Madhya Pradesh-Gujarat border), their thin voices amplified by the scratchy microphones hooked to a generator on a tractor. "Koi nahin hatega, baandh nahin banega" and "Laathi goli khayenge, Nimar ko bachayenge" and "Hindi, Marathi ya Gujarati, ladne walon ki ek jaati". Medha Patkar leans forward, clapping her hands in encouragement. "Bahut achchha, bahut achchha. You have given me so much josh (enthusiasm). Ab khane peene ki zaroorat nahin," she exclaims.

Applause ripples through the shamiana, as patrician kisans, with bristling moustaches and stubbly chins, bare-legged tribal women and young activists, the men bearded and bespectacled, join in. "Sardar Sarovar kya karega?" asks someone. The full-throated roar of 500 voices in unison follows: "Sabka satyanash karega." Pause. A couple of drumbeats. "Jangal zameen

apne aap ki hai "The friendly roar tollows "Nahin kisike baap ki hai"

Seated in the shamiana beside six activ ists also on hunger strike, and some 500 green troops"-- mostly farmers and tribals-Medha Patkar is speaking to a group of fellow travellers of a more recent vin tage, all of them overawed and jeaned young men who arrived this morning Painstakingly Medha Patkai explains her cause to the attentive young men The Rs 12,000-crore Sardar Sarovar Project would innundate rich croplands and pristine forests causing irreparable environ mental damage The thousands of evicted farmers and tribals, she argues, her tone tinged with persuasion, will never get proper compensation. Lives will be affected, a lifestyle will disappear

In the name of development greed has transcended need, she says, shooting down the government and pro dam activists' arguments that it will provide drinking water to the people of Gujarat irrigation facilities and hydel power. Himanshu Thakkar, a young activist, hovers nearby protectively 'Let Medha rest. She is get ting tired," he says

After a flurry of speeches the NBA activists assembled at Raighat Bridge on the banks of the Narmada on Christmas Day last year Ahead las Sardar Sarovar the dam site, and Kevadia the sparkling concrete township of opulent guest houses and regulation government housing estates on the banks of the Narmada Baba Amte, the ailing angel of the leper ashrams, walked a few symbolic paces and then accompanied the marchers in his ambulance Swami Agnivesh fuelled early



'I realised that only mass mobilisation will help. The courts are for dumping problems and locking them up. We urgently needed to reach out to the tribals'



It is in Bombay that the story of Medha Patkar begins over three decades ago. Her trade unionist parents taught her militancy, her schooling in a Marathi medium gave her a healthy disregard for 'ivory-towerism'

passions but left early. Only Medha Patkar marched all the way at the fore front the symbol of protest an unstoppable for ry green Four days later at Ferkuva on the Gujarat Madhya Pradesh border the mar chers collided with a phalanx of khaki as swarms of pro-dain activists stood on guard

The march taught us brotherhood. The march taught us to share. What has satisfied me the most is the feeling of unity between the tribals of the Vindhyas and the Satpuras and the peasants of the Nimar region The tribals carried their grain with them, the farmers brought tractors and now, they are feeding all the tribals. It is not charity it is brotherhood. she says

More than the shortage of food fodder and funds the NBA activists feared the cold 'It was 2 C or 3 C when we got here. Ferkuva wasn't supposed to be the last stop. There were no arrangements, we lay in the open at night. Sleep was impossible our bodies craved for warmth but there wasn't any, said Brian Lobo a Kashtakan Sangathan worker from Bom

It is in Bombay that the story of Medha Patkar begins over three decades ago Her trade unionist parents taught her mili tancy, her schooling in a Marathi medium gave her a healthy disregard for 'ivory towerism' 'I spent a lot of time dream ing I wanted to do something good, perhaps be a village doctor " After study ing chemistry at Ruia College and community development at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Patkar did her doctoral

work on slum dwellers. But my heart was with the tribals In 1985, Patkar came to the Narmad (Valley with a radvocate from Delhi who wanted legal action. She did nothing and I realised that culy mass mobilisation will help. The courts are for dump ing problems and locking them up. We urgently needed to reach out to the trib al১

From her wrist dangles a bracelet. In scribed on it are the words Medha Patkai repeatedly states. Hum nihin hatenge baandh nahin banne denge Adds Patkar "The deprivation of the natural resource base because of development is causing problems. The so called modern systems are destroying tribal lifestyles

In short stacatto bursts. Medha Patkar shoots down the paper promises and empty reassurances, about rescttlement of the project affected people (PAP)

They have no plans ready they have things on paper that too because of our pressure. The SSP's plans to reliabilitate project affected people are nonimplementable about 50 per cent of the people even in the submerged zone fishermen tribals poor firmers have been overlooked. The three states (Gu jarat MP and Mahai ashtra) don't have a common policy. Land to settle every displaced person is just not available. There is no plan and no political will

With a wave of her hand. Patkar dismis ses the model resettlement centres for the PAPs as showpiece They can settle a few villages. They are depending on previte land in Gujarat and forest land in Maharashtra which is unju t because secondary displacement is involved. A



In short staccato bursts. Medha Patkar shoots down 'the paper promises and empty reassurances' about the resettlement of the project-affected people

THE OTHER WOMAN

While chief minister Chimanbhai Patel shuttles between New Delhi and Gandhinagar, drumming up support for the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP), Urmilaben, his fiesty wife, waits at the frontline of Ferkuva tirclessly rallying pro-dam agitators. After leading the chorus of Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram, Baba ko sammati. de Bhagwan, Mrs Patel sits crosslegged on a mattress, hunched over a quick meai of puris and sambar.

Principal of a college, Urmilaben has been camping in Ferkuva since December 29, sometimes sleeping in a white Ambassador car belonging to the state government. "Pant", she says softly, and a young attendant dips a plastic cup into a metal bucket and pours water into a stainless steel tumb-

that all pro-dam agitators were policemen in musti. But now he says that the pro-dam agitators are the voice of the people and adds that he is not against the people of Saurashtra petting water.

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Baba Arnte has renounced nonviolence. He is in the hands of the
anti-dam agitators. See all the slogans
they wrote on the walls about breaking
the dam. He even wanted to go back
twice, but the anti-dam agitators did
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not let him go. Q: The anti-dam agitators believe that once they are displaced they won't find land.

A: Acquiring land is not their problem. We will find it for them. Let them come to us first. We will buy land from the people of Gujarat. We will give them good land. I am making an open offer to



'I am making an open offer to all the anti-dam agitators in Ferkuva. Come and see me and I will give you land'

ler. Her meal over, Mrs Patel, sitting beside piles of firewood and packets of spray dried skimmed milk powder in the pro-dam activists' shamiana, gets ready to speak to The Telegraph.

Q: You have never been at the forefront of political activity. Why have you suddenly become a full-time campaigner?

A: The project is very vital for the people of Gujarat. We've had a bad time recently. There was a severe drinking water shortage because of the drought. We had to spend Rs 15,000 crores ferrying water by train and by tankers. Besides, the ground water levels in the villages are falling. In the past, you got water at 300-400 feet, now you have to bore wells about 600 feet deep. And very soon, we'll be at the 1,000 feet level

Q: Do you believe that Baba Amte is well-meaning, but slightly misguided?

A: He is not slightly misguided; he is totally misguided. His statements are also contradictory. Initially, he said that he wouldn't be allowed to talk to the people of Gujarat. Then he said

all the anti-dam agitators in Ferkuva. Come and see me and I will give you land.

Q: The construction of the SSP will cause tremendous environmental damage.

A: I drove down to Barwani (in MP) yesterday. You won't see dense forests in the area. And we will plant 40 trees for each one we cut down. We have already begun afforestation work. Q: Why are you building one hig dam! Why not build a few smaller dame! It might cause less environmental dam-

A: The Narmada is not just the only big river, it is the only river that can supply adequate amounts of water. If there were smaller rivers in the area, we could have smaller dams. Besides, Jawaharial Nehru wanted the Narmada dam. The Union finance and environment departments want the dam. The World Bank wants the dam. The World Bank wants the dam. Today Baba Amte is saying something tomorrow someone else will say areas thing. Does that mean that it is every ment work will have to stap.

cold anger burns in her eyes. "What about the 60,000 people whose lands have been taken away to build canals leading from the dam? They haven't been included. And the tribals? They have rejected the forest land because other tribals will be affected. The environment department says that no forest land will be given out."

No one has accepted her moral challenge. Or heeded Baba Amte's heated rhetoric. Not the government of Gujarat, not the Centre, not the World Bank which has loaned Rs 700 crore for the dam. Six per cent of the project work-construction of the dam site, the lake where water is stored, the canals, the allotment of resettlement sites—is complete. Very soon, the forests will fall to the developers' axe. A haze of concrete dust will shroud a land that was lush and verdant. The NBA may be fighting a losing battle "Phansi ka phanda taiyar hai. But till they put the noose around our necks, we will fight I can't accept that the dam will be built. I have the confidence The years I have spent organising the tribals won't go to waste. They won't submit. They say it is a symbolic struggle "

From pressure groups, grudging support is finally forthcoming. "The human rights groups are getting closer. The environmentalists accept the forest dwellers have primary rights. They have come a step beyond merely saying that tribals have a right to use the forest. The tribals, they realise, are the protectors of environmental and social values."

But won't the hunger sap her strength, reducing the activists' morale? "My hunger strike will only boost their morale. It will strengthen them. The people are joining up. The people are on our side." Seven days of fasting had not broken her spirit. "This fast has to be indefinite. Jaan lagake karna hoga. We have to see if our leaders have a conscience. We have to see if they have any political will."

very activist at Sangharshgaon exudes a steely resolve. They are united, they have more to lose than their lands and their livelihood. Under a leafy mango tree in the fields squat four kisan activists in dhous, determined to save their lands "They are destroying the country in the name of development. Lakhs of people will be uprooted and whole villages submerged by the waters of the dam's reservoir. You call that development? I call it destruction," says 60-year-old Sobharam, a yellow and black samarpand (those who have are willing to sacrifice their lives to stop the dam) scarf, round his neck. From Undiya village, in Barwani, MP, 61-year-old Jagannath Patiday, his cheeks covered with silvery stubble, is determined to stay at Sangharshgaon till the government relents "We are staying. My village will be submerged, my family has lived there for



The uprooted of the earth

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Q: Why are you against the Sardar Sarovar Project?

A: I haven't singled out the Narmada. I'm against all big dams. It is not the question of height. It is a struggle for the rights of man. Why should other people decide our fate?

'They sing bhajans at the top of their voices all night so that I can't sleep. But if they continue to sing Baba ko sammati de Bhagwan so loudly, God will need an ENT checkup'



water to save the countryside from drought. "Water is a luxury in some parts of our state. And here, Baba Amte is talking about submerged land and the destroyed environment.

The project, advocate S.I. Rathore believes, will provide electricity and irrigation facilities, though he acknowledges that some people will be affected. "It will be one per cent loss and 99 per cent gain," says Rathore, who attributes the anti-dam agitation to petty politics. During the last election, the BJP told voters in MP that it would stop the project for political gains, he says. A more convincing argument comes from Chunibhai Vaid. "Four districts need the water desperately. We need the drinking water and the water for

irrigation. With the increase in population, the demand for water is rising. The SSP will only partially solve the problem.

"Look at our position," appeals Vaid, a spare, ascetic Sarvodaya leader. "Water levels are falling. We are being forced to drink fossil water which has a high flouride content. We cannot let all the Narmada water flow into the Arabian Sea." Calmly and considerately Vaid spares a thought for the project-affected people. "If the people refuse to move from their lands they will have to be forcibly evicted. We cannot stop now. The nation has taken a decision. Okay, one lakh people will be affected, but two crore people will benefit. And our rehabilitation facilities are the best in the world.

Among the beneficiaries is Mungalia Bairagi, a Bhil. This turbanned and earringed tribal's village will disappear under the waters of the Sardar Sarovar Lake, but he has been given five acres of irrigated land. "Baba Amte is misguided on the issue. Even the project-affected people are on our side," says Hariballabh Parikh, a tribal leader. "I have opposed the government on many issues. I think the government also makes mistakes, but I support the dam," Vaid adds.

he white Ambassador bumps over the cratered roads, past knots of cheering children, and women, balancing brass pots on their heads. Cattle with long curving horns wander around, a stately camel

Besides if the dams are constructed, the socio-economic profile of the people won't improve. The only trade left for us will be the flesh trade. The tribals in India are more isolated than the Sikhs in Punjab.

Q: But the people of Gujarat need the dam. There is a severe water shortage in Saurashtra and Kutch.

A: The parched lips of Saurashtra and Kutch have first claim to the waters of the Narmada. It is not a question of drinking water. It is the brute hunger for size. What is the need to always have the biggest dam and the biggest railway platform and to violate nature? Building the dam will be perpetuating a national folly. The people of Saurashtra sent me hate mail. But the same people later came and sought my blessings.

Q: Your fight is against all odds. A: It is a fight till the end. The just place for a just man in an unjust society is jail or death.

Q: Is there any solution in sight?

A: We all know that every problem has a solution. Even now, there is a way out. I am the most condemned man. I am condemned to success. I demand a national debate on these projects. It is a national problem. And national problems have national solutions. I am against violence because I am against violence. If this callousness continues, the Narmada will be swollen with the tears of the people. If the SSP is the lifeline of Gujarat, it is also the deathline of Guiarat.

Q: You have refused to negotiate... A: You cannot be threatened and negotiate at the same time.

Q: The pro-dam agitators claim you have renounced non-violence.

A: I am not a hatyagrahi. I am a satvagrahi. On the first day here, policemen in plainclothes opposed us. When I fainted, the pro-dam agitators beat their drums and rejoiced and sang. They thought I was dead. They threaten me. They shout all night so I



can't sleep. But I am still here.

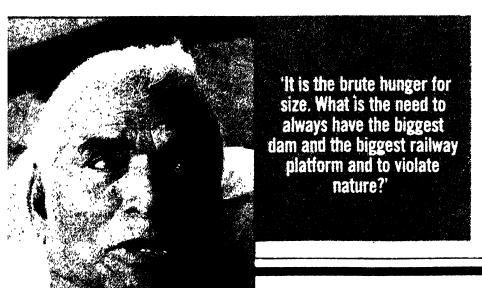
Look all around you. Why are there so many homeguards? Thank God, I have not been arrested for outraging the modesty of women homeguards.

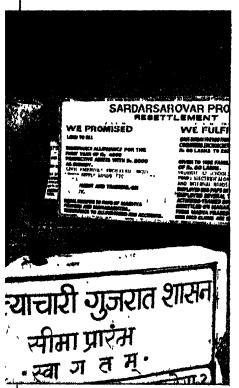
O: The government of Gujarat claims that all project-affected people will be settled.

A: No sane economist will believe that enough land can be given for resettling tribals. The tribal belts of India carry the best geological blessings. But look at the tribals today. They live half-man half-animal.

Q: Why did you return the national awards?

President R. Venk-A: I wrote to ataraman... I said that after all this I can't keep them any more.





The pro-dam lobby insists that the Sardar Sarovar Project is the "lifeline of Gujarat". Its case:

Irrigation: About 18 lakh hectares in 12 districts of Gujarat including 3,393 villages will benefit. Seventy five per cent of the dam's command area is drought-prone agricultural land.

THE ARGUMENTS

Water supply: Over 32 million people living in 131 urban centres and 4,720 villages in Gujarat will get an uninterrupted supply of drinking water.

Power generation: Power stations with an installed capacity of 1,450 MW will provide electricity to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Employment: The annual employment potential is 7.0 lakh man-years during the construction period and 6 lakh man-years thereafter.

Rehabilitation: The dam's reservoir will submerge 34,867 hectares of land, including 10,719 hectares of forest land. It will displace 21,349 families living in 248 villages, 193 of which are in MP. Every project affected family, every major son, landless labourer and encroacher is entitled to two hectares of irrigable agricultural land. Each family will allotted a 90 ft X 60 ft plot close to the land, a subsistence allowance of Rs 4,500 per family and other benefits. **Afforestation:** Over 4,500 hectares of forest land will be submerged in Gujarat. A decision to raise compensatory forests on 4,650 hectares in Kutch has been taken. Also, 12,000 hectares of degraded forest land will be "greened". Costs: Rs 6,406 at 1986-87 levels.

Costs: Rs 6,406 at 1986-87 levels. World Bank aid amounts to \$ 650million.

Anti-dam activists put forward a different argument.

Irrigation: Only 20 of the 56' drought-prone talukas will be supplied with irrigation water. The needs of only six talukas will be totally fulfilled while 36 talukas will not get any water at all.

Power: If all the water is used to generate electricity, there will be no water for irrigation.

Costs: Most anti dam activists estimate to final cost to be around Rs 11,500 crores. Rajni Kothari, former member of the Planning Commission, estimates that total expenditure may rise to Rs 20,000 crores, while L.C. Jain, another former member of the commission, believes that the final cost, including "environmental costs" will by around Rs 30,000 crores.

Resettlement: Of the 14,944 project affected families in MP, 80 have been given agricultural land so far. According to Medha Patkar, much of the data on available land for resettlement is fictitious. The only alternative is to buy private land at high cost or release forest land, she says.

Drinking water: Water may reach the drought-affected districts 25 years from now, says an advisor to the Planning Commission.

plods along. Giant electric pylons dot the landscape, proofs that development has reached rural Gujarat, though the people are still poor. Ahead is Gutal, in Vaghodia tehsil, a "resettlement colony" which Medha Patkat dismisses as a "show

piece' On five acres of land, 30-year-old Radheyshyam, his wife and two little chil dren, have begun a new life. We sit on a low string bed outside his makeshift dwell ing a tin shed (the government has given him an additional 5,400 sq. ft for building a pucca house). There is a whiff of gobar. In Bhauti, Madhya Pradesh, he was a landless labourer at the bottom of the pile. "Today I have a pair of bullocks, a plot to build a house and five acres. I am a happy man," muses Radheyshyam. He misses his native Bhauti and he has trouble understanding the local language. "I can't speak Gujarati, only Hindi, but my children will learn. They will be Gujaratis.

Sifting through grains of jowar before grinding them to make aata, Bodhi Bai nods in agreement. "I had no land in MP; here we have 10 acres, five for my son,

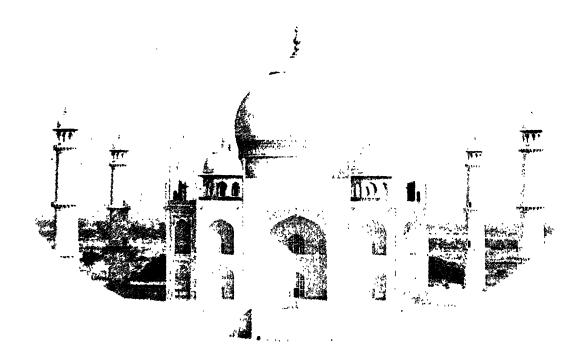
five for me." Despite financial help from the Gujarat government, the early days in Gutal weren't easy "We had to do mazdoori, work as maids in neighbouring homes," he says. Gits of land, bullocks and money have kept Kewal Singh (55), formerly of Bhauti, permanently good humoured. "There are rumours that the government of Gujarat will find a wife for me and Chimanbhai Patel will build a helipad here for our use," he laughs.

The reasons for Radheyshyam's smile lie further down the road. At Sardar Sarovar and Kevadia, man may have overcome nature, but it could be a phyrric victory. What was once miles of fertile cropland is a cauldron of fine dust. Cranes rattle, the concrete mixing plant rumbles incessantly. Lying around are piles of broken bricks and twisted rubble. And beside the rubble, stand two signboards. "Make India Green" and "Sardar Sarovar Ensures Ecological Harmony" they say.

At the dam site, the mighty Narmada isa narrow, gushing channel, exposing scoured black bedrock. On the sides of the river stand steel towers, twice the height of the Qutb Minar linked by a cable. A trolley carrying 28 tonnes of pre-cooled concrete runs on the cable. Close by is an ice plant. "Precooled concrete is preferred because it never cracks," explains Sudhir Dave, deputy manager, Sardar Sarovar Project. Yet, fewer than 500 people are working on the dam site, he adds All along the road, pitiable shacks rub shoulders with the icons of development—smart circuit houses and, of course, the Rs 12,000-crore dam. On another signboard is painted the slogan: "The Sardar Sarovar Project is the Backbone of Gujarat's Economy".

"She is an educated woman. She has done a lot for the poor tribals, but on the Narmada issue she is completely misguided," says Urmilaben Patel about Medha Patkar. Misguided or not, a fortught's fasting has only added to her charisma, steeling her resolve. Does Patkar expect support from another Green apostle—Union environment minister Maneka Gandhi? "Maneka's feet are tied, but her hands are free. Maybe, she will do something."

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FOCUS

ex sells," said Gianfranco Mingozzi, "and that's it." The frank admission by the director of the Italian entry, Moments of Love, at a press conference during the 22nd International Film Festival of India at Madras.

"I do not believe in showing on the screen more than what is required," he somewhat hastened to add. Moments of Love, starring the languidly sensuous Ornella Muti and the play-it-easy Philippe Noiret, is not the first Mingozzi film to include explicit, though stylishly shot, sex scenes. It is preceded by other Mingozzi films on love and sex subjects.

Another director, Felix de Rooy, whose film, Ava and Gabriel (The Netherlands), was also screened at IFFI '91, told newsmen at Madras that he saw sex as "an expression of truthfulness" in his films. Gabriel arrives from Holland to paint a nural of the Virgin Mary for the church in Curacao in the late Forties. He picks Ava,

a young teacher of mixed birth, to model for the mural, and in the end falls a victim to the controversies, hypocrisy and intrigues that grow around him and his creation. To those who pick their "hot films" by combing through the synopses with a glad eye, Ava and Gabriel must have read

like a film about moral science. Rooy, even in his next film, being made in Amsterdam, has a sexual theme running through it. Rooy elaborated, "Even homosexuality, like feminism, is a theme which should be included in literature and art"

Most films from outside this country use

HE AT AND DUST





Every film festival has its share of good films, bad films and steamy films; but the cinema carnival at Madras had one at least that nearly set the screen on fire. Anil Grover survived to tell the tale

the sex element as a matter of routine even the films in which India is beginning to have a growing interest the cinema of South Korea. These films however suffer from a lack of sophistication and are so much like the run of the mill masila Hindi or Lamil films. It was an eye opener to find the social problems tackled in most of the Korean films running parallel to Indian dilemmas and dogmas not the least being the position accorded to women widows and wives Bac Chang Ho's Whale Hunter about a charming golden hearted professional beggar and a kid trying to come of age very nearly looked like a Dev Anand fantasia in another language

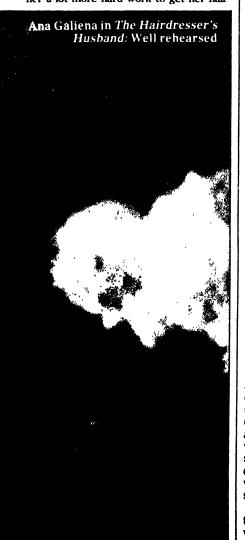
Come to think of it. Indian cinema also seems to be coming of age! In the Indian Panorama this year at least two films showed that Indian cinema is graduating from shorts to trousers B. Narsing Rao's Telugu entry Matti Manushulu projects Neena Gupta as a sex symbol and depicts a rather torrid lovemaking scene. Of course, such scenes have become part and parcel of art films, including Govind Nihalani s Hindi film Aakrosh, some years ago But what pleased one immensely was Nihalani's soft-focus dreaminess in the handling of the Dimple Kapadia Irfan bed room scenes Arguably, the most divinely shot love scenes at least in Hindi cinema

But it is to the Cinema of the World section that everyone gravitates from the clerks on duty tapping the hot film on the cyclostyled schedule with a furtive whisper of Don't miss thrown in, to the Sheltering Sky and pondering philosophi cally on the groin and grind, to the critic tilting against the sitting eating screw ing routine of a rather romantically slot





band, directed by Patrice Leconte. (To add to his woes, the tall, voluptuous-lipped Italian leading lady. Ana Galiena, was present in person and revealed that there is no censorship in France, that everything is left entirely to the taste of the filmmaker, that she and the hero retired to a private room to rehearse the intimate scene and "get the positions right", and that it took her a lot more hard work to get her hair-





The Rooster in full cry and (inset) Lovers in Woomukbaemee

cutting, rather than lovemaking, right!)

By general consensus, the other sizzlers were: Cyrano de Bergerac by Jean-Paul Rappaneau (France), Dames Galantes by Jean-Charles Tacchella (France-Canada-Italy), The Rooster by Shin Seung-Soo (South Korea), Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down by Pedro Almodovar (Spain), Angels by Jacob Berger (Switzerland) and Art of Loving by Jaek Bromski (Poland). But, the film that nearly set the Madras University Centenary Auditorium on fire was the USA-France coproduction, Henry and June, directed by Philip Kaufman.

Set against the backdrop of Paris, 1931-32, and based on the long suppressed sections of the diaries of Anais Nin and the autobiographical novels of Henry Miller, even the official brochure describes it as "a sexual odyssey". If there was a poll to decide the hottest film of IFFI '91, Henry and June would win pants down. A viewer who came out of the hall crackling all over, said: "What could the festival authorities do? If they had censored the film, they would have been left with a 10-minute short!"

It was rising actor Salim Ghouse who tipped this correspondent off when he wondered sotto voce, "I hope there isn't a riot before Henry and June. I've

seen it on video, and boy, is it erotic!" After the screening, actress Reeta Bhaduri who needs plenty to get shocked by, and who sat through practically every film, said, "I don't know what the purpose of the authorities was. If it was to provide at least one film with nothing but titillation, Henry and June was a right pick." Serious filmmaker Nabyendu Chatterjee was also aghast at the selection of Kaufman's film. 'Sex may be a part of a film, but in this film, sex seemed to be the film." Journalist-author-filmmaker Randor Guy said he wasn't sad he missed the film though everyone was talking about it. "What I sincerely feel is that we should hold a blue film festival for a month every year. That will help in excluding such films from the

What was particularly annoying about Henry and June was its relevance and selection for an IFFI. The "sexual odyssey" is nothing but a string of intimate scenes with a threadbare storyline. Great as far as fun goes, but not film. Deepak Sandhu, the film festival director, however, explained the choice thus: "It has been to other important festivals like Venice and London (1990). And I can't decide whether it is too hot for us. Otherwise, you people will say, 'Who's she to decide what's too hot." That's it.

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Bahaar Aane Tak New Cine ma (Ienin Sarani 270147) 4

A musical romance starring Rupa Ganguly Sumeet Saigal Navin Nischal Tariq Shah and Moon Moon Sen The film is directed by Tariq Shah and the music is by Rajesh Roshan

• Hum Orient (Bentinck Street 281917) Paradise (Bentinck Street 285142) Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 244822) (rem (Achary) Jigadish Chandra Bose Road 249828) Basusice (S.P. Mukherjee Road 484808) Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue 410417) Priya (Rashbehari Avc nue 464440) Moonlight (T C Dutta Street 254956) Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue 390762) Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bha dun Street 552270) Purnastee (Raja Re) Kissen Street 554033) Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 365108) Bina (Bidhan Sara m 311522) Milancha (Regent Park) Alochhaya (Behaghata Main Road 355059) Ragini (Beliaghata

Main Road 363264)
Directed by Mukul S Anand the film stars megastar Amitabh Bachchan along with Rajaikant Govinda Kimi Katkai Deepa Sahi Shilpa Shirodkar Danny De nzongpa Anupam Kher Romcsh Sharma Annu Kapoor Shammi and Kader Khan The music is by Laxmikant Pyarclal

Govinda and Shilpa Shirodkar in Hum

• Pathar Ke Insan Jyoti (Lenin Sarani 241132) 4 shows

A film by Shomu Mukerji star ring Vinod Khanna Sridevi Jackie Shroff and Poonam Dhillon The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• Pyar Ka Devta Roxy

(Chowringhee Place 284138)-

11 2 15 5 30 8 45 Directed by K Bapaiah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal the chief attractions of this film arc Mithun Chakraborty Madhuri Dix it Rupa Ganguly Shakti Kapoor

Moushumi Chatterjee and Kader Khan.

• Sanam Bewafa Lotus (S N Banerjee Road 242664) Indira (Indra Roy Road 471757)-4 shows

A love story interspersed with actions this Saawan Kumar film stars Salman Khan and debutante Chandri Others co starring are new find Kanchan Puneet Issar Pankaj Dheer Danny and Pran The music is by Mahesh Kishor

• Thanedaar: Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 274259)—4 shows

A film by Raj Sippy starring Jeetendra, Jaya Prada Sunjay Dutt and Madhuri Dixit The music is by Bappi Lahiri

Bengali Films

• Ahankaar: Sree (Bidhan Sara nı 551515) Purabı (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road, 478666)—3 shows

Directed by Srikanta Guhatha kurta and with music by R D Bur man, the main cast comprises Prasenit Debashree Roy Utpal Dutt, Kah Banerjee, Anup Kurrar and Rannt Mulbck





• Beder Meye Jyosna: Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

Chirargeet, Anju Ghosh, Sarfuddin, Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Soma, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarnath and Bulbul comprise the cast.

• Mahaajan: Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, **352740**)-2.45, 5.30, 8.15.

An Anian Choudhury film, starring Utpal Dutt, Ranjit Mullick, Sandhya Roy, Kali Banerjee, Joy Banerjee, Churnki Choudhury and Tapas Paul.

• Raajnartaki: Mıtra (Bıdhan Sarani; 551133)-3, 5.30, 8, Prach (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)-2, 5 7 45

Sudha Chandran's debut Bengali film which also stars Tapas Paul,

Basanta Chowdhury, Anup Kumar, Sailen Mukherjee, Nirmal Kumar and Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury The film is directed by Narayan Chakraborty and the music is by Bireshwar Sarkar.

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• Mayor Sahab: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 242266). Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Ruad. 391090), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Khanna (Acharya Praful) Chandra Road, 552932)

Kamai Haasan and Vijaya Shanti are the lead pair. The film is directed by Suresh Krishna and the music is by Illaivaraaia

Special Events

10-13 February: 3 pm - 8 pm An exhibition of paintings by Aditya Kumar Bandyopadhyay and Samır Kumar Bandyopadhyay ın the West Gallery.

· An exhibition of paintings by Prabir Gupta in the North Gallery • Sukumar Ghose and others will hold an exhibition of paintings in

the New South Gallery. An exhibition of paintings by

Sakti Brata Mukherjee in the New Gallery

10-16 February: 3 pm - 8 pm An exhibition of Sunil Jana's photographs, organised by ANZ Grandlays Bank, in the Central Gallery

14 February onwards: 3 pm -8 pm

A week long exhibition of paint ings by Babun Ghosh and Saman Paul in the North Gallery

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 284302) 14 February: 6.30 pm

Nandikar will stage Sankahpur er Sukanya, directed by Rudrapra sad Sengupta

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 284302).

15 February: 6.30 pm Padatik Music Circle presents a classical vocal recital by Suranjana Bose

At Padatik Little theatre (6/7 AJL Bose Road; 446087)

15 February: 6.30 pm Kalkut Natyasangstha presents the Bengali play, Continuity, directed by Kaustav Sen Drama: Indrashis Laharry

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria

Street) 15 February onwards: 3 pm -8 pm

Association of Creative Photography will hold an exhibition of photographs in the West, New South, South and New gallenes, till February 24

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 284302)

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

This schedule is effective till February 20

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230 York: Dep (2) Ai-101 at 0.230
Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5) Al-306 at 1915,
Dep (5) Al-306 at 2020
Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) Al-309 at 1910,
Dep (6) Al-309 at 2025
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Al-132/1328 at 1230 * Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr

(4) SU-537 at 1625 Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow. Dep (4) SU-538 at 1825

* Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanol: Arr (2) SU-541 at 0755, Dep (2) SU-541 at 0905 * Hanol-Calcutta-Karschi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr (2) SU-542 at 1755, Dep (2) SU-542 at

1905 Calcutta-Amman: Dep (5) RJ-

185 at 0630 Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4) RJ-184 at 0800

Calcutta-Sirigapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4) SQ-420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta; Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-420 at

1210 Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-731 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-732 at 1500, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (1. 5) RA-214 at 1530

Kethmandu-Celcutta. Arr (1, 5) RA-213 at 1430

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (daily) BG-092 at 1150 and BG-096 at 2020, Dep (1, 4 7) BG-094 at 1700 Dhaka-Calcutta. Arr (daily) BG-091 at 1110 and BG-097 at 1940 Arr (1, 4 7) BG-093 at 1620 Calcutta-Chittagong. Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1355

Chittagong-Calcutta. Arr (2 5) BG-697 at 1310

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (2) KB-106 at 0900 Air (2) KB-105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India :::: Calcutta-Bombay. Dep (2) Al-

101 at 0230 Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Al-1328 at

Indian Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0800 and IC-402 at 1730 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1240 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutte-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0850 and IC-273 at 2000, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (1, 2, 4 6) IC-265 at 1715, Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-765 at 1630, Arr (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-266 at 2205, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-766 at 2140

Calcutta-Vizag-Madras: Dep (1, 4, 6) IC-542 at 1040, Arr (1 4 6) IC-541 at 0915

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-771 at 1630, Dep (3 5 7) IC-271 at 1620, Arr (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-772 at 2220, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-272 at 2150

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-729 at 0830 and IC-727 at 1230. Printed here is the regular indian Airlines schedule.
This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For essistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266669, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

Arr (daily) IC-730 at 1130 and IC 728 at 1530

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep (2, 3, 4 5, 7) IC-213 at 0805, Arr (2, 3 4 5 7) IC-213 at 1200

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur. Dep (1, 3, 5 7) IC-219 at 0810, Arr (1 3, 5, 7) IC-220 at 1250 Calcutta-Bhubaneawar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5) IC-269 at 1650, Arr (3, 5) IC-270 at 2040 Calcutta-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-259 at 1330 Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-260 at 1610

Calcutta-Siichar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0740, Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1220

Calcutta-Dibrugarh. Dep (daily) IC-201 at 1305, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1635

Caicutta-Ranchi-Patna Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (1 3, 5) IC 410 at 0905, Dep (7) IC-410 at 1530, Arr (1, 3 5 7) IC-409 at 1545

Calcutta-Port Blair. Dep (2 4 6) IC-285 at 0545 Arr (2 4, 6) IC-286 at 1015

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar. Dep (1) IC-287 at 0545 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1235

Calcutta-Agartala Dep (daily) IC-241 at 0800 Dep (2) IC-245 at 1040, Dep (2) IC-243 at 1400, Arr (1, 2, 4) IC-242 at 1000 Arr (3, 5, 6, 7) IC-242 at 1450 Arr (2) IC-244 at 1450 Arr (2) IC-245 Arr (2) IC-245 246 at 1240, Arr (2) 17-244 at

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1300 Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1520

Calcutta-Agartala-imphal: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-727 at 0530, Arr. (1, 3, 5) PF-728 at 1120

Calcutta-Agartala-Silohar: Dep (7). PF-729A at 0550; Arr (7): PF-730A at 1050.

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-701 at 1140, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-702 at

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamaipur-Calcutta-Agartaia-Kamaipur-Kaliashahar-Agartaia-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4, 6). PF-729 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6) PF-730 at 1040 Calcutta-Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6) PF-701 at 1100, Arr. (2, 4, 6) PF-702 at 1715

Calcutte-Rourkela: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-715 at 0600; Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-716 at 0855 Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-

Lileberi-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (2, 6) PF-709 at 0815, Arr. (2, 6):

PF-709 at 0816, Arr. (2, 6): PF-710 at 1840 Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Liiabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (4): PF-709 at 0816, Arr. (4): PF-710 at 1750

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lileberi-Dibrugarh-Tezu; Dep. (7): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (7): PF-710 at 1705

Calcutta-Alzawi-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta Karachi Tashkent Calcutta

PF-705 at 0915; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-708 at 1620. Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729A at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730A at 1410. Calcutta-Aizawi-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705 at 0910 and PF-729B at 1310; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706 at 1255 and PF-730B at 1655.

Calcutta-Jamahedpur-Ranchi-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0550; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1115.

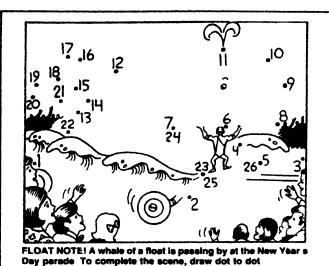
Calcutte-Jamshedpur: Dep. (2,

4, 6): PF- 717 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0745.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-707 at 0800; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

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3003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	8002	19-20	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8-00	800
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	285
		press via Gaya-Varanasi			8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	8033
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8030	11-30	Bombey Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
		Arr-Wed. Fri. & Sun.			2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex-	11-50	284
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304	1		press		
		press via Patna			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express	13-45	261
		Dep-Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sun.			ł		Dep—Tues		
		Arr-Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat.			i		Arr—Sun.		
2301	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	801
		week '			8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	801
		Dep-Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. &			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	800
		Sun.			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	801
					8007		Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	800
		Arr—Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. &			8409	22-00	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via	7-45	841
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		press via Main Line			l		- Guwahati Express		
					ì		Saturday only		
3011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	l	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	264
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020		14-10	Guwahati Weekiy Express	10 40	204
3021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	ŀ		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
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WATCH OUT BELOW
Place your wristwatch on a table
Then give friends a test of time
1 What season can be found

in a watch?

2 What flower part can be

found in a watch?

3 What watch part interests a leaver?

4 What watch parts do card players hold?
5 What watch parts march in

5 What watch parts march in parades?
6 What watch sounds trans

mit disease?
7 What sign of honesty is

found in a watch? Perhaps you can make up some

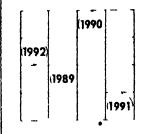
Sping 2 Stem J Case 4 Hands 5
Bends 8 ficks 7 An open face

Sping 2 ficks 7 An open face

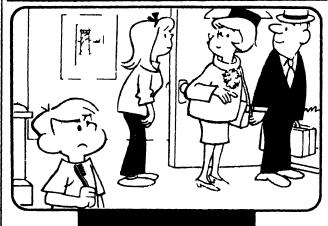
e SUM YEARS! Complete this magic square of the years by filling in the 12 blank spaces with numbers 1-12 inclusive, so that each of the horizontal, vertical and diagonal rows will total 2010.

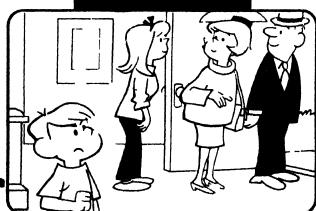
For starters, let it be known that the top row across consists of the numbers 5, 11, 1990, 4

7 S Set from a 000 ff c won go 7 s sen 6 ff c won go 7 from 9 ff from 9 ft ff from 9 ft ff ff from 9 ft ff ff from 9 ft ff ff ff from 9 ft ff from 9 ft from 9 ft ff from 9 ft from 9









CAN YOU TRUS! YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly uan you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences i Pin is in seminal 2. Toothbrush a missing 3 Body is slimmer 4. Hat a smaller 5. Corsege a missing 6. Suitcase ϵ imissing

FUNSPOT



SWING SHIFT! Ring out the old swing in the new Apply the following colors nestly 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ASPIRING

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points for a red emocomy expressed

OUIZ - Neil O'Brien

44 LA hich was Russia's biggest defeat in World War I?" asks Arun Srivastava, Calcutta 16.

Wanting to please hardpressed French allies, Czar Nicholas II of Russia ordered an immediate offensive against Germany in August 1914, at the outbreak of W.W.I. The Russian army had only begun mobilising and was unprepared for this premature attack.

The Russian objective was East Prussia, which was to be attacked from the west and from Russian Poland to the south. The southern army was commanded by Gen. Alexander Samsonov, who had never before commanded an army in combat. Samsonov marched his illprepared 2nd (Warsaw) Army north to the frontier and, on August 22, invaded Germany near the village of Tannenberg.

At this point, German Generals Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorf wheeled their entire army from northeast Prussia to the south. They concentrated their forces on both Russian flanks, while allowing the enemy centre to bulge forward. The Germans were aided by the Russian practice of sending radio messages uncoded. German intelligence knew the location



11th Question. How did the word 'debugging' of computer programmes originate? (M. Sulochana Raju, 599 Keyatala Road, Calcutta 700029

Ans: The Mark I computer of Harvard stopped one day in 1945 and after sys-

tematic search the team of engineers found one moth which had entered a relay and stopped the works. The dead moth was pulled out, taped to the log book and entry was made that the computer restarted after the bug was removed. Today the word 'debugging' is used to denote the systematic pre-run check of all programmes and systems to remove possible causes of fallures. The word was coined by Captain (Miss) Grace Murray Hopper who was in the Harvard team and later became a pioneer in computer languages.

of Russian units better than Samsonov did. By August 24, even Samsonov realised something was wrong on his flanks and slowed his advance. But his superior. General Zhilinsky, ordered him to quit "acting the co-



Czar Nicholas II

ward and resume the offensive."

On August 26, the Germans counterattacked with an assault on the Russian east flank, which was routed. giving the Germans an open road into the Russian rear. In the next two days, German attacks also wiped out the Russian west flank, With both flanks crushed, the overextended Russian centre was caught in the mouth of the German army, with the jaws slamming shut behind it. The Russian 2nd Army disintegrated. Retreat was impossible, because the Germans had formed a line across the Russian rear. Having lost any semblance of control over his army, the despondent Samsonov walked off into the woods and shot himself. The Germans had won a total victory.

Russian losses were 92,000 captured and 30,000 killed or missing. German casualties were 13,000 killed and wounded. Tannenberg ensured the eventual defeat of Russia and precipitated the Russian Revolution. Thus Czar Nicholas II paid for his rash decision with his throne and his life. The German victory was offset by their defeat at the Battle of the Marne in France, at about the same time

QUESTIONS

1. What are the small hours? (Debasish Majurindar, Calcutta 64) 2. If Britain has its Com-

monwealth, what does 🔩 France have? (Akshaya Kumar Pati, Jharsuguda 1)

3. Who were the 'Graces' in Greek mythology? (Abhik Majumdar, Calcutta

4. Who was described as the 'Grand Old Lady of the (Hindi) silver screen:? (Pradio Kumar Das, Calčutta 65)

5. Which is the only country to hold champions West Germany to a draw in Italia '90? (Anis Penigrahi, Jharsududa 2

6. Which British royal encouraged a friend in his attempt to become a pop singer? (Anienava Datta,

Calcutta 31)
7. Who directed the legendary film Gone with the

Wind? (Jaydeep Guhatha-kurla, Calgutta 59) 8. What kind of person is 'Pecksniffian' and how did the term originate? (Otherlo Mazoomdaar, Boral 5) 9. When asked if the wave of glasnost in Eastern Europe would reach his

country, who replied: "I do not believe that revolution le an exportable one "?

(Subrata Haldar, Tribeni 3) 18. Ivan Turgenev and Anatole France both figure in the Guinness Book of World Records, Turgenev for the largest and Anatole France for the smallest what? (Dhrùbajyoti Sen, Agarpara 77)

ANSWERS

(noi7 gram). France had the smallest SO12 gram) and Anatole beingest brain (weighted sizes. Turgeney had the 10. For their record brain 9. Fidel Castro. ZIGWIE BY CHAINGE DICKORS. character in Martin Chuzname of Seth Peckeniff, a

was originated from the seeming benevolence. It person behind a display of 5. A selfish and corrupt . Victor Fleming. anccessini enterprise was not entirely become a pop star. The couraged the efforts of her friend, Roddy Llewellyn, to 6. Princess Margaret en-5. Columbia. 4. Leela Mishra. (moolg) silertT liance), Euphosyne (Joy), They were Aglaea (Briland charm in human life. Zeus who personified joy 3. The three daughters or Z. The French Community. หนุดเนอเน The period soon affer

















Part of Programme and a second second











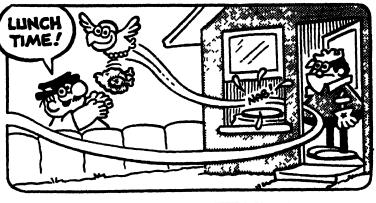






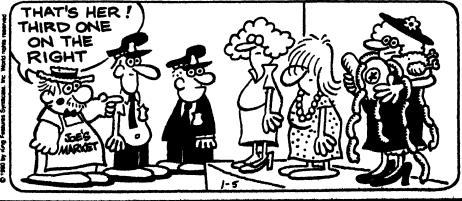






GOTTA GO DOWN TO THE POLICE STATION, MOOSE, TO IDENTIFY ANOTHER SHOPLIFTER



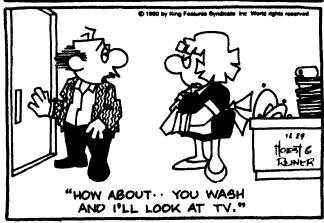




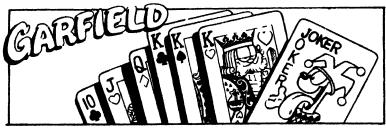








GARFIELD By Jim Dovis .





















































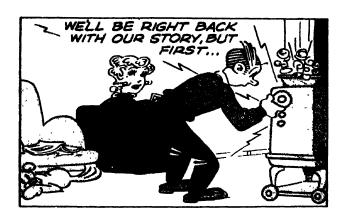


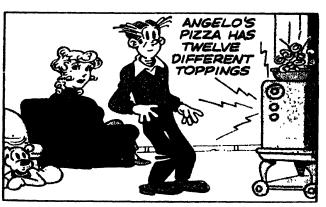


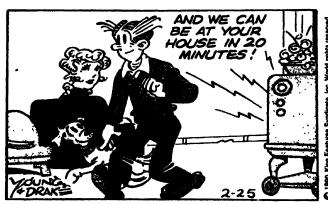














CURRY CURRY CURRY - Ranjit Rai



Mushroom Curry: Coriander Greens

When morels were cheap this dish was made of morels. It has of late been adapted for champignon (button) mushrooms and is equally tasty.

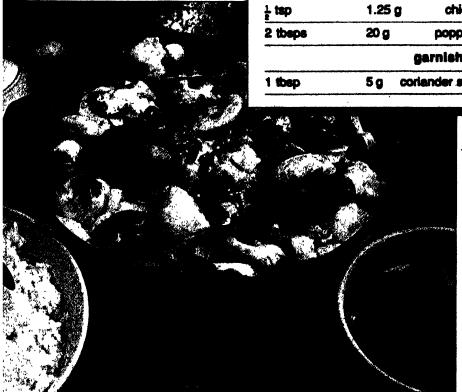
Serves 3-4 Cooking Time: 15-20 minutes

Method

Wash and dry mushrooms and slice according to the shape preferred and keep aside in a colander. Liquidise the finishing masala in a blender and keep aside.

In a saucepan bring ghee to high heat. Take away from the heat and add the singe-fry masala and stir. Return to heat and add the follow-up masala and stir fry

1		·	
British	Metric	Ingredients	American
18 oz	500 g	fresh mushrooms	18 cz
3½ oz (cup)	100 g	ghee or butter	‡ cup
	8	inge-fry masela	
1 tsp	2.75 g	garam masala	1 tap
	fe	ollow-up mesele	
1 tbsp	15 g	ginger paste	1 tbsp
1 tbsp	15 g	garlic paste	· 1 tbep
21 oz (1 cup)	75 g	onions paste .	i cup
	duri	ng-cooking masala	
1 tsp	2 g	chilli powder	1 tsp
2 oz (1 cup)	20 g g	reen coriander, scissor-cut	i cup
3	3 gr	een chillies, slit lengthwise	3
1 tbsp	7.5 g.	sait, to taste	‡ tbap
	. 1	inishing masala	
9 oz (1½ cups)	250 g	yoghurt	1 cup
1 tsp	1 g	comflour on	½ tep
1 tsp	1.25 g	chick pea flour	1 tsp
2 theps	20 g	poppy seed paste .	2 tbeps
	(garnish mesala	
1 tbsp	5 g cor	iander seed, whole, roasted	1 thep



till ghee is released. Now add the duringcooking masala and stir fry for 2-3 minutes. Add the mushrooms and stir fry for
3-4 minutes. Add the finishing masala
which has been liquidised. Simmer on slow
fire for 5-8 minutes—the mixture should
attempt to boil but not actually boil.

Transfer to a serving dish and sprinkle the garnish masala.

Note: May be eaten with rice or on pizza bread.

An unusual departure in this recipe is the singe-fry of the garam masala—a reversal of the traditional sequence.

Also, many cooks boil the onions before making a paste to give it a creamy texture. No water is used as mushrooms release enough liquid, which is full of flavour, during cooking.

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India



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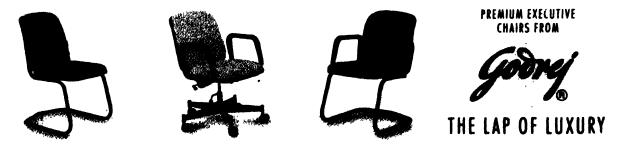
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POST MORTEM

Was That Tina?

The picture of Anil Ambani and Tina Munim (In the News, December 30) confused me. I do not know what Ambani looks like but I have seen several films of Tina and I'm sure the photograph was not of Tina Munim.

Amar Nath Kanu, Budge Budge (W.B.)

Is the Tina in the picture used here that you recognise?—Editor.

are being misused.

Nilesh Bhattacharya,
Agarpara (W.B.)

■ I was surprised at the enormous coverage you gave Rabi Ghose. Did he really deserve it?

I cannot think of him as anything more than an actor who indulges in crude buffoonery in third rate films, who happens to do some good acting in some Satyajit Ray films. For that the credit goes solely to Ray.



Tina Munim: When she twinkled

The Smiling Comedian

The cover story on Rabi Ghose ('Bagha Byne', December 23) was, in a word, marvellous. It is sad that as Indian cinema is being commercialised, we are going away from the path of good clean fun. Today's actors are simply jacks of all trades and the fun makers

Another trash item was 'The Return of the Consort' on Vyjayanthimala Bali. There is nothing much to expect from her as a classical dancer. She might have had some potential as a dancer years ago, but one does not know whether any of that talent remains after so many years of pandering to Bombay films.

Debashis Sen, Calcutta ■ Sohini Sen's cover story was an extremely readable experience. Rabi Ghose is an immensely talented actor though commonly mistaken as a "funny man" (your caption on the cover suffered from the same misconception). Yes, he is funny, but he is a great character actor whose comic veneer highlights the tragedy of life.

Debu Bhattacharya, Calcutta

■ Subse Bada Sukh is not the only Hindi film that Rabi Ghose has acted in. He also did Phagun and Satyakam and many others.

You should now do a cover story on the famous comedians of the Indian screen like Bhanu Banerjee, Nripati Chatterjee, Tulsi Chakraborty, Mehmood and Kishore Kumar.

Rabi Ghose should have mentioned the name of Tapen Chatterjee, his partner in the Goopy-Bagha films of Ray, without whose contribution the films would not have been successful, which even Ray admits.

Sandip Roy Choudhury, Caicutta

I am a staunch fan of Rabi Ghose. He excelled himself in the Ray films like the Goopy-Bagha ones, Hirak Rajar Deshe, Abhijan, Jana Aranya, and Aranyer Din Ratri.

I agree with him that nowadays only a handful of directors know their job. Being a wellwisher of Bengali films, I wish these filmmakers would pay heed to Ghose.

Arup De, Calcutta

Rabi Ghose is the best Bengali comedian. He smiles very often and makes the audience smile with him. The other two who can do that are Anup Kumar and Chinmoy Roy. Ashoke Sengupta, Rahara (W.B.)

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

24 FEBRUARY 1991



The three-month honeymoon between Rajiv Gandhi and Chandra Shekhar is over. A behind-the-scene-look at what went wrong.

An informal chat with B.D. Deodhar, the grand old man of cricket who has stepped into his 100th year.

A photofeature on Devi Lal's latest effort to ruralise India.

The romance of the record can never die despite technological revolutions.

SECTIONS

11 Heritage

12 Inner Eye

21 7 Days

24 Quiz

25 Junior Whirl

26 Comics

30 Curry Curry Curry

Cover: UNI

A BRIEF AFFAIR?



The Janata Dal's expert wordspinner S Jaipal Reddy made a rather pithy comment about the future of the Chandra Shekhar government immediately after it assumed office last November "Chandra Shekhar's fate as Prime Minister." he remarked. "is sealed in any case Rajiv Gandhi cannot let him function if he does too well and Rajiv Gandhi cannot let him function if he does too badly "Opinion may be divided on which of the two has caused the Congress(I)'s quick estrange ment with the present government-it is perhaps a bit of both and more but it is increasingly apparent that Rajiv Gandhi is in no mood to let Chandra Shekhar con tinue at the helm for much longer

In the runup to the current session of Parliament, the Congress(I) unleashed a fierce barrage of criticism on the minority Janata Dal(S) government blaming it for Enlure on almost every major domestic issue and for tampering with the 'time tested" foreign policy of the country And the significant aspect of the attack was that it no longer came merely from the Con gress(I) flanks but straight from Rajiv Gan dhi himself "It appears from the govern ment's lack of action on the prices front and in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, Rajiv Gandhi howled just two days before the commencement of the Parliament ses sion, that there is no government at all' Here was an ironic, indeed laughable situation Rapy Gandhi had become the bitterest critic of the government his own party held aloft For Prime Minister Chan dra Shekhar the irony had a cruel pinch Defending his decision to seek Rajiv Gan dhi's help in forming a government last November, he had declared In politics there are no permanent friends or foes Now that truism was mocking him Old foes had become friends and then foes again Said a semor Cabinet colleague of the Prime Minister There has been a sea-change in the Congress(I) s attitude in the last few weeks. It is as if trust has evaporated, the Congress(I) has suddenly become an adversary party hitting us on anything and everything. It does not appear that they want to let us function

The most ignominious, and perhaps the most politically significant blow delivered by Rajiv Gandhi on the government was to force Chandra Shekhar to abandon almost at the eleventh hour, plans for presenting a Budget and instead settle for a vote on account What was even more humiliating was that Rany Gandhi did not even demand a vote on account openly and left it to the beleaguered Prime Minister to announce the decision on his own Rajiv Gandhi's message was clear he was keeping his options for general election sometime during the coming summer very open, he did not want a harsh Budget-it could not have been a soft one given the state of the

economy and the added stress of the Gulf war and the recent IMF loan—to queer the electoral pitch. The best way for him was not to have a Budget at all till he decided his future strategy.

There were muffled squeals of protest in the Chandra Shekhar government at this but nothing beyond that Complained a Union minister in the face of the continuing assault from the Congress(I) on the gov ernment 'The Congress(I) has almost be gun treating us like inefficient slaves. They have got more than what they wanted from us but they keep pressing for more And at the same time they do not even allow us the room to work our way through decisions Are we here merely to serve the Congress(I)? He was of course referring to the dismissal of the Assam and Tamil Nadu governments decisions that have very obviously been taken under pressure from the Congres s(I) and its allies--and the 'influence that

The writing is on the wall for everyone to see. The only question is: how much longer before Rajiv Gandhi finally pulls the rug from under Chandra Shekhar. SANKARSHAN THAKUR reports on the growing rift between the Prime Minister and the once, and maybe future,

Prime Minister

Rajiv Gandhi's party has wielded over important appointments in the bureaucracy "For the last few months the Congress(I) had enjoyed all the power without any responsibility and yet all that the party does is complain"

Though they were in no position to vent their ire openly. Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and finance minister Yashwant Sinha who had been working towards his first Budget were particularly preved at the Congress(I) is decision to guillotine the Budget and continue with the attack on the government's economic policies. Said an aide of the Prime Minister. The Congres s(I) is a master that wants to be pleased all the time at all costs."

Congress(I) circles, however, claim that contrary to the perception that the Congress(I) is running the show, the Chandra Shekhar government has, in a short time

and despite its utter lack of numerical authority in Parliament, demonstrated a 'stubborn streak" in several respects and that differences had cropped up because of its dogged intransigence" on various issues. For a pair that gave the impression of heing merry as honeymooners in each other's company as recently as November last, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and Congress(I) president Rajiv Gandhi have found a surprisingly large number of rift areas.

The irrction began almost from the word go The inclusion of Sanjay Singh and Kalyan Singh Kalvi, Dal(S) MP from Rajasthan who is widely alleged to have sup ported the Roop Kanwar 'sati' case in 1987 in the Union council of ministers was disliked by the Congress(I) However, the leadership refrained from commenting on it at that stage maintaining that choosing the Cabinet was the prerogative of the Prin Minister Later though, the Con gress(I) general secretary, V N Gadgil, did make it a point to stress that Sanjay Singh the minister of state for communications was under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Syed Modi murder case. In both Houses of Parliament, the two ministers were greeted with cries of 'shame, shame from Congress(I) benches when Chandra Shekhar introduced his ministe nal colleagues

The differences were still low key, though and the first major problem began over the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mulayam Singh Yadav, following wide spread communal riots in the state. The Uttar Pradesh Congress(I) leadership's aversion to Mulayam Singh is well known and it is also a fact that leaders like Rajen dra Kumarı Bajpai (now brought to the Centre as an AlCC general secretary) were paranoid that the chief minister's tough stand on the Ayodhya issue would drive the upper caste Hindu vote away from the Congress(1) The UP Congress s(I) used the nots to demand Mulayam Singh's ouster and threatened on several occasions to withdraw support from his government I hough Rajiv Gandhi never openly demanded Mulayam Singh's ous ter he did state that the example of Chan na Reddy (the former Andhra Pradesh this fininister who had been asked to quit over communal violence in the state during the same period) should be emulated Mulayam Singh, always a tough customer, however threatened Assembly elections and the Congress(I) could not get rid of him The manner in which Chandra Shekhar stood by Mulayam Singh through out the attack on him also irked the Congress(l) leadership

The first open assault on the Chandra Shekhar government from the Congress(I)



The Rajiv-Chandra Shekhar bandwagon. On a collision course

came on the issue of the five Union minis ters-V C Shukla, Shakılur Rehman Sar war Hussein Bhagey Goverdhan and Basavaraj Patil-who were disqualified from the Lok Sabha under the antidefection law last month The Congress(I) was one of the first parties to demand the removal of these ministers and still stick to its stand Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and his party, however, rebuffed the demand and has so far stuck to the technicality that anyone can be a minister for a period of six months without being a member of either House of Parliament While the Congress(I) thinks that con tinuance of the five ministers in office is

untenable and makes it difficult to support the government on the floor of the House the Chandra Shekhar camp feels that the Prime Minister "cannot take dictations from outsiders on who should be part of

his government

The major differences between the gov ernment and the Congress(I) have of course, been on policy issues and have emerged only recently What triggered it off was the Gulf War on which India's initial reaction was to toe the US line and wholeheartedly support the multinational assault on Iraq following the expiry of the UN deadline What was more, the government was silent on the Iraqi proposal to

link the Palestinian question to a possible withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait Here again, the Congress(I) leadership amplified its differences with the government and forced it to make two major changes after an all-party meeting on the issue and a rather strong letter from Rajiv Gandhi to the Prime Minister the government shifted its position and demanded a cessation of hostilities in the region prior to any talks for settlement, and, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar himself began articulating the Palestinian cause more volubly than he previously had Close on the heels of his letter on the Gulf, Rajiv Gandhi shot off another one, this time on the govern ment's Punjab policy Obviously irked by the Prime Minister's offer for talks with the militants and his stated readiness to amend the Constitution to accommodate the militants' demands the Congress(1) president warned the government against taking any steps that would further endan ger the unity and integrity of the country It is significant that since then the Prime Minister has been at pains to stress that there would be no compromise on India's

terntonal integrity

The differences on these issues had hardly settled down when the refuelling controversy burst on the scene creating all-round furore The Congress(I), along with the Janata Dal and the Left parties stated in no uncertain terms that permis sion to US military aircraft to refuel in India marked a major deviation from the country's foreign policy and that it virtually amounted to aiding the US war effort in the Gulf Despite protests from all quarters, however, Chandra Shekhar allowed refuelling to continue for almost a month after the controversy broke out and it was only following an ultimatum from the Congress(I) that the Chandra Shekhar government agreed to put a stop to it Apart from the larger foreign policy concerns, Ranv Gandhi's agitation with the government's overall response to the Gulf War also has domestic political reasons. Eager to woo back the minorities the Congress(I) feels that the Gulf War is an extremely sensitive and emotional issue and that any move that is even slightly pro-US or anti-Saddam Hussem is likely to anger the Muslim community

But then while all these disputes have come up, they are really only factors that have served to expose the inherent fickleness of the arrangement between the Congress(I) and the Janata Dal(S) If nothing else, the Congress(I)'s insistence on a vote on account instead of a full-fledged Budget has proved that the party's promise in November to let the (Chandra Shekhar) government "run for the full term" was not for real "Indeed," says a Janata Dal(S) office bearer and Central

minister, "we have never had any illusions about how long the government will last. The Congress(I), after all, is not a charitable organisation and it supported us because it did not want to face the polls at that point. There was nothing more to it." And as Chandra Shekhar confidant and minister of state in the Prime Minister's office, Kamal Morarka, himself admits, "The key to the tenure of this government is with the Congress(I); let us admit that as far as elections are concerned, they are going to be the decision-makers."

But has that time come? Has the Congress(I) decided that the situation is ripe enough for it to go to the polls? The answer, on current evidence is, no. Had it thought the time opportune enough, the Congress(I) would have had no qualms about withdrawing support; it already has the kind of issues to explain such action.

the kind of issues to explain such action. It is no secret that despite Rajiv Gandhi's stated position that he does not want to come to power without a direct mandate from the people, an attempt, a failed one, was made by the Congress(I) to capture power without going to the polls. The



The time to listen is over

move, initiated sometime last month, envisaged chipping away substantial blocks of MPs from both the Janata Dals to give the Congress(I) a workable majority in the Lok Sabha. But despite concerted efforts, particularly from a section of old Indira Gandhi loyalists like M.L. Fotedar, H.K.L. Bhagat, Buta Singh, the plan failed

Apparently, according to this plan, the Deputy Prime Minister. Devi Lal, was supposed to have joined the Congress(I) with "more than 18" MPs and from the Janata Dal, Arun Nehru and his group had promised a "sizeable number" that would include Ajit Singh and his followers. Both faction leaders failed to muster enough support and abandoned their respective moves. If the Devi Lal camp is to be believed, moves to form a "national government" with the Congress(I) are still on. Indeed, Devi Lal has been reiterating his preference for a "more broad-based government", his obvious hint being that Chandra Shekhar should pave the way for

Rajiv Gandhi

Chandra Shekhar

Composition of Cabinet

- Sanjay Singh and Kalvan Singh Kalvan should not have been included because the former is under investigation by the CBI and the latter is alleged to have promoted Sati. Sanjay Singh was also involved in a controversial shootout during the last Lok Sabha elections from America, the home constituency of Rajiv Gandhi. Also, the five ministers disqualified by the Lok Sabha Speaker under the anti-defection law should be removed from the council of ministers on moral grounds.
- * first at the time of writing declined to agree to either view and hat refused to make any changes in his council of ministers insisting on his prerogatives as Prime Minister.

Pun jab

- The Punjab situation is being barrilled in a manner fraught with perilicus possibilities. The offer of talks with the militants, the declaration of a will to amend the Constitution to accommodate "legitimate demands" of the militants by the Prime Minaster and the official media's acceptance of the militants' code of conduct are signs of surrender. The PM's overtly conciliatory attitude towards the militants has sent a message that the government is prepared to "sacrifice national interests"
- There is nothing wrough offering to hold falks with the militarity if they are ready to negotiate within the framework of the Constitution. It is upong to say that the government is surrendering; the government shall make no compromise on the unity and integrity of the nation at any cost.

Gulf

- The government departed from the country's time-tested foreign colley of the country by not exhausting all avenues for a peaceful solution and not championing the cause of the Palestinian people. Instead of supporting the US-lied war in ling seth alactity, the government should have insisted on a causation of hostilities. The government's decision to allow US military aircraft to refuel at lodien airbases marks a tapper foreign policy deviation and complement the country's international standing at a leading non-aligned hadion. The US has sought refuelling its its successful in liadia only to prove that highly too it a vasculate of theirs. Reflighing should be supposed forthwithing.
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Minister's unconditional talks with Mann has emboldered the terrorists and created a setting situation with intensified hillings. And in the economic sphere; he is submitting to divid dictates to get out of difficulties. This is going to compromise our economic supervisions.

Sovereignty."

This itself, the CPI(M) feels, is enough to demand that this government be put to an end. The party however does not want to let the Congress (I) of the lipok for propping up Canada. Rafiv Gandhi cannot evade responsibility for foisting such a government on the country. Its dismal perfections contradictions between the two partners. These contradictions are going to lead to the fall of the government.

"So intense is their dislike for Chanthe the Left did its own bit to whip up the differences within the Janata Dal (S) and between the Prime Minister and the Congress(I). A number of meetings took place between Left Desired and deputy Prime Minister Desired as well as some Congres-sel leaders. As a result, sections in the Congress(I) were even led to believe that the Left, in its eagerness to see Chandra Shekhar go, might support the Congress(I) to form an alternative government on the condition that India's pro-US learning is corrected. But the Left is willing to go only so far and no more. Their antipathy towards the present Prime Minister has not blinded them to the fact that the Congress(I) continues to be the longterm enemy and any truck with this party at the Centre may cost them dearly in West Bennal and Kerala. Besides, they feel that the Congress(I)'s basic inclinations towards authoritarianism has not nged the toppling of the Tamil lade government and the dismissal of the Bilbar governor are two "anti-demonstric dreps taken by the Centre at the behear of the Congress(I), they isel. And so, while calling for the ous-ter of Chandra Shekhar, the Left will not support the Congress() to achieve this task except cheer from the side ince if Rairy does ditch. Change State in a situation of delicate that he side who out static. Rajiv Gandhi.

While the manoeuverings to upstage the Chandra Shekhar government and achieve a majority for the Congress(I) have not been entirely given up by various factional interests in the Janata Dal(S) and Rajiv Gandhi's party, the Congress(I) president is readying himself for the election option. The seemingly desperate need of the Congress(I) to get rid of the present arrangement is motivated essentially by two factors: the desire among a section of Congressmen to be in power and enjoy its fruits first-hand rather than support a minority government, and, secondly, the genuine concern in the party that backing the Chandra Shekhar government is going to get them nowhere. The feedback that the Congress(I) president has been getting is that everyday the party supports the Chandra Shekhar government, its electoral chances are being damaged; they feel that their hands are tied by their role in Delhi and Lucknow, where the Congress(I) backs the Mulayam Singh Yadav government.

In the words of one party MP from Uttar Pradesh, "What are we going to gain politically from this business of supporting Chandra Shekhar and Mulayam Singh? Our public position is so false, how can we criticise them if we are backing them in the legislatures? While both the BJP and V.P. Singh are able to campaign on their respective issues in unrestrained fashion, we are neither here nor there... The party has to do something about it..."

Although there are reports that privately commissioned opinion polls—one of them is believed to have been done recently by psephologist Prannoy Roy—have been very encouraging for the Congress(I), it is learnt that a final decision about the polls might only be taken after the results of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, which are likely to be held sometime in April.

But surely, having promised support to the government, the Congress(I) has to have very good reasons to ditch Chandra Shekhar. This, it is pointed out in Congress(I) circles, may not pose a problem for the "need to ditch Chandra Shekhar may not arise at all."

According to one senior Congressman, there is a distinct possibility that Rajiv Gandhi and Chandra Shekhar might decide to face polls together as alliance partners. "Apart from himself, Chandra Shekhar has leaders like Mulayam Singh Yadav and Devi Lal who still pull quite a lot of weight in their respective constituencies and the party can do with their help." What the party can do without, at least according to the present assessment of Congress(I) bosses, is the present arrangement and that will have to go sooner rather than later.

fter a childhood spent mostly in convent schools (one of them in England), grandfather put his foot down and decided that the time had come to Indianise me and my brother. "Roots," he declared, using an expression that was to become popular in later years. "These boys must grow roots." So for our seeding he called in a retired headmaster as our munshi and placed us in his charge for all the waking hours of the day.

Pandit Sita Ram was a jolly pot-bellied man with a fund of anecdotes and proverbs, many of them culled from foreign lands. His favourite was a Persian couplet which began with the words Tandoor-e-shimam, and whenever we appeared before him, wiping our mouths after our umpteenth meal of the day, he would recite in his sonorous voice the misfortunes that befell those who kept stoking their stomachs, specially when they no longer had any fuel left for such indulgence.

He even quoted Confucius, translating freely into the vernacular: "Knowledge is man's most valuable possession. Those born with it are of the highest order. Then come those who acquire it by study. The lowest are those who never attain it."

Munshiji's main job was to teach us how to read and write Hindi and Urdu. It was no fault of his that we never became proficient in either, but there were other things he taught us which we could never have learned from a text-book: homilies for every occasion and stories with a moral. For example, sitting beside him and the syce on the seat behind us, I was driving our tonga to the garden we owned on the outskirts of the city. Suddenly for no reason I cracked the whip on the horse's flanks.

"There!" he said, "that's what I mean! The poor nag did no wrong. He's running at the speed you set, right in the middle of the road, yet just because you have a whip in your hand, you feel you have the right to punish him". Ear-

PROFIT AND LOSS

Or, taking a look at the balance sheet of life

lier, I had left the house in a huff after my father had admonished me, in Munshiji's presence, for something I hadn't done. "You'll find it's like this everywhere", he added. "The man with the whip will always find time to use it, whether there is reason or not".

On another occasion, he told me to pick up a mango I had only half-eaten and thrown into the wastebasket, complaining that it didn't taste very good. "Two things you must learn to respect", he told me. "Food and books. From one you get sustenance for the body from the other sustenance for the mind".

Another thing Pandit Sita Ram told me was to make a regular review of the things I had done in, say, the previous six-monthly period. "You must develop the habit of introspection", he told me in approxi-

mate language, adding: "Self-examination is good for the soul. It brings things into proper perspective. You should maintain an accounts-book of what you do in life and make entries in the profit and loss columns, like the shopkeepers do".

Unfortunately I never paid much heed to the good munshi's advice in the years when it might have helped, and now in the winter of my life I find personal stock-taking to be a distasteful thing, something like self-flagellation. So many chances missed, so many opportunities squandered, one can only say to oneself, passing a lenient sentence: "You could have done better than that". And then let it pass.

I remember what a wise old Chinaman told me many years ago in just such a moment of remorse. He was Ambassador of the Nationalist Government of Formosa and, although our two countries had no official relations, he was our neighbour and we became good friends.

At one time he had been considered for appointment as the foreign minister of China before Mao's Red Army took over. "Look what happened! Before I had even begun, we were pushed out of the mainland and are now confined to a little offshore island. And here I am, in one of the dwindling number of countries that recognise our existence. This too will go the way of the others. It is inevitable". He shrugged, and there was sadness in his smile.

I had told him that, just before he arrived, I had been making an inventory of my life and didn't like the look of the balance-sheet. He smiled the sort of smile that Westerners call inscrutable, and then he said: "If you will permit an old man to offer a few words of advice, I would say to you that a man's balance-sheet is not written in this world but in the hereafter". Then he summarised for me the story of his own life.

"So you see, my friend", he said, sipping slowly from the glass of tonic water at his elbow, "if anyone has reason to be despondent, it is myself. One by one, my hopes and ambitions have been dashed to the ground. But I seek consolation in asking myself the question: Have I been happy and have I given others some happiness? The answer is yes, which reassures me that I have not lived my life in vain."

Pandit Sita Ram and Ambassador Chen are long dead and gone, but in moments when I am feeling low, I think of them. And when I review what I regard as the wreckage of my life, I recall what Chen said to me in the verandah of my home in a far-off land so many years ago. Have I lived a happy life, I ask myself, and have I spread a little happiness?

Then I say to myself, as Chen did 30-odd years ago, that my life has not been wasted, that I have made someone smile at some time or another, that there will be someone to shed a tear for me when my turn comes to appear before the Great Accountant. And then I raise my eyes to heaven and start counting my blessings.

P.L. Bhandari





OUIZ D Neil O'Brien

aushik Kumar Nag, Chinsurah, writes:

'At the end of 1990 Uttarpara witnessed a fabulous quiz contest organised by Musafir Quiz Enthusiasts at the central hall of Joykrishna Library. This was a guiz of high standard coupled with a nail-biting finish. Kudos to Barun, he organised a fine round in the final—a tribute to Ritwick Ghatak. It was a late victory for Hangama '90 (Kaushik Kumar Nag, Subrata Halder and Soumendu Roy)."

A "Who am I?" from Krishan Mohta, Calcutta:

"I was born in Edinburgh in 1859. I studied medicine and became an eye specialist. I volunteered as a physician in the Boer and simultaneously covered it as a war correspondent. I collaborated with J.M. Barrie (creator of Peter Pan) to produce an operetta. I was one of the select few to have scored a first class century at Lord's. My bowling feat included taking 7 for 51 against Cambridgeshire. achieving a hattrick against Warwickshire, and the most meritorious feat of all, clean bowling Dr W.G. Grace. In my later life, I became an eccentric spiritualist and died in 1930. Who am 1?'

Ans: Sir Arthur Conan



11th Question: While issuing death certificates, doctors in Australia are now required to disclose whether a pacemaker was present in a body. Why? (Othello Mazoomdar, C/o B.N. Ghosh, Sripur Charaktala, Boral 743505)

Ans: As the pacemaker batteries (lithium-lodine batteries) sealed inside two layers of titanium metal casing have damaged furnace equipment and threatened lives of workers at crematoriums.

Doyle (creator of the legendary Sherlock Holmes).

A quiz report from J. Om Prakash Rao, Jharsuguda:

Quiz has become a regular feature of Jharsuguda for the last three years. This year also a quiz competition was organised under their auspices. It was conducted by quizmistress Indrani Pose before a fairly large crowd. The quiz received an excellent response with competitors in four groups. It was a keenly-contested affair. Team C won with 95 points, team B came next with 65 points while team D took third place with 47 points."

"When did the communists drive the nationalists out of China?" This question comes from Ruby Ganguly, Calcutta 19

In 1949 Chinese communist forces under Mao Tse Tung consolidated their

victory over nationalists troops in Manchuria and swept south into the Chinese heartland. The nationalist stronghold at Tientsin collapsed on January 15, and on the 21st, two days before the fall of Peking, President



Chiang Kai-Shek was forced to resign in favour of Vice-President Li Tsung-Jen, who tried in vain to salvage southern China through a negotiated settlement with Mao. Driven from Nanking (April 21), from Canton (October 13), and from

Chungking (December 8), the weary nationalist government fled across the strait to Taiwan and sought asylum. Meanwhile on October 1. Mao proclaimed the birth of the People's Republic of China. Now came the hard part. Somehow Mao had to mobilise a quarter of the world's population into a force for radical social change while at the same time stabilising the disjointed Chinese economy. The civil war, coming on top of the Japanese occupation, had crippled the nation's industry and agricul-ture, and a third of the arable land lay under flood-waters. With the Organic Law, Mao set himself up as chairman of the Central People's Government Council with powers equivalent to those of the US President, the chief justice, and congressional leaders all rolled into one. The nuts and bolts of statecraft, however, he left to the state administrative council, headed by his trusted lieutenant Chou En-Lai. What transpired inside China at mid-century was ignored, diplomatically at least, by the US. While Great Britain, France, India, Burma, Pakistan, Ceylon and all the communist countries promptly recognised the Red government in Peking, Washington refused to do so.

QUESTIONS

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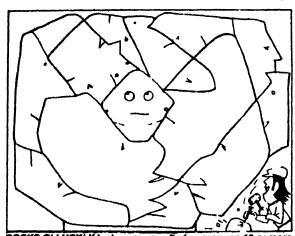
actress Kimi Katkar. Why? (Arun Kumar Purphit, Calcutte 7) - 1

ANSWERS

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JUNIOR WHIRL - Hal Kaufman



ROCKS O' LUCK! If lucky, you may find as many as 18 or more taces chiselled in stone, above What's your count?

• SUM TWIST! Double this number turn the result upside down and divide by three. If the answer is 327 what is the original number?

The rumber is ninety three



FOLD AND TEAR WITS TESTER

See if you can solve this in your head - that is without actually doing what's suggested Suppose you take a sheet of paper and fold it in half then fold it in half again at right angles to the first told Four thicknesses will result

Now suppose you tear these four thicknesses in half Question How many separate pieces of pap er will result?

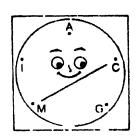
Remember you are to try to think this exercise through without using paper What's the answer?

Three separate preces

. SPACE MAGIC! Why is there a smile on the face of the man in the moon, below? Because he feels sure that you can perform this amazing feat of space magic

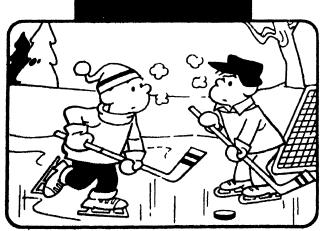
Beginning with the let-ter M, connect dots with straight lines proceeding in the order M A-G-I-C

Result will be another familiar sky figure



HOCUS-FOCUS

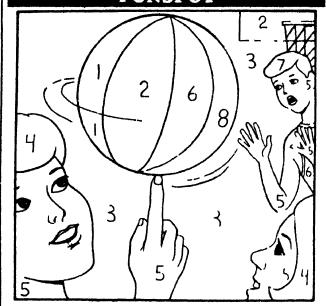




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Bench is missing 2 Cap is different 3 Scarl end is missing 4 State strongs 5 Glove is different 6 States are different

FUNSPOT



SPIN OFFI Hey there, ball spinner, you re holding up the game. Add the following colors neatly 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Black 8—Lt purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

OBSERVER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points they end? margana eldiato9

INNER EYE Dejan Daruwalla

RIES

March 21— April 20
Communications, introspection, exbuying, selling, and new

penses, buying, selling, and new links and ties are the main trends of the week Romance is certainly meant for you as Venus (love) trines Jupiter (luck) Financial deals and import-export are well signified Travel is favourably indicated You may feel a bit below the weather Renovation, decoration and kids keep the domestic front occupied



April 21- May 20
You will receive good news Your work will be done Secret attachments and plans do the trick Pienty of socialising is indicated Romance will be enough to keep you busy Contracts and assign ments will come through Unless absolutely necessary do not undertake any journey at least for the first five days of the week The home front includes buying selling and beautifying No major health problem is foreseen

EMINI

May 21 June 20
The Sun-Mercury union makes you ambitious, daring, cheerful and definitely lucky Give your best shot to bargains and brokerage Romance will be just right to make you happy Travel does not have the top priority The domestic sector will be fully activated thanks to Mars and the full moon An additional health care

ANCER

will do no harm

June 21—July 20

The main trends of the week are romance, children socialising, creative pursuits and luck of the draw Romance will be high and handsome Loans, funds, investments and new projects comprise the financial side. There may be occasional health problems but nothing much to worry about Travel plans will be finalised. A complete change in scenery or a major move in the home and family is not ruled out.

EO

July 21 - August 21
The accent this week is on home, loans,

buying, selling and a possible home away from home Romance for the eligible and the fancyfree Finance is definitely highlighted Travel only if there is a major move or transfer Health safeguards are advisable A

















pleasant domestic scene is envisaged, your hands will be full and you will have a full house

IRGO

August 27- Sept 22
Work pressures, hectic communication

and correspondence, and travel make a busy week In romance, your feelings will be stirred and you will be poetic and charming Health pressures could under mine your food intake Avoid intoxicants. As regards the home and family, your concentration will be diffused as there are too many irons in the fire Learn to collaborate and be a good col-

league or boss or partner for the money to fly into your pocket

IBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22
The focus this week is on money, family and housing Favours will be granted The financial graph shows an upward trend You will find time for romance Take periodic rest and cultivate a hob by to keep your health in perfect shape Excellent chances for travel will be available Expect visitors and long-distance ac quaintances to drop in or even stay with you The domestic side comprises renovation to outright house purchase

February 27

Moon square Pluto: A slightly difficult year in the sense that you may fall out with solleagues. April and October should be very progressive. Do not replect your health.

February 28

Full moon Marriage, collaborations, ties, journeys and legal problems are your fot now. This is an uneven but interesting year. Sudden gains and happiness are fated for you.

March 1

Moon trine Neptune; This trine favoure withers, authors and those in druge, themsight and the portal, Markage, partnership and collaboration are favourably winted. Dobters and maters will be in their steman. Surely pould, chample your Hilleton.

CORPIO

Oct 23—Nov 22
Sport, hobby, finance, personal posers and family hassles give you plenty to think about Before the end of April you make positive progress in financial dealings Romance will be just right and fine for you But get the money first Accidents and operations are possible Avoid tension

AGITTARIUS

Nov 23—Dec 20 The family and

Commuting and short trips are

favoured

domestic influences predominate and this trend will last a month or so In-laws and parents have their say An occasional tingling of the heart is destined in March because Verius and Mars do propel you into it. The financial side promises plenty of activity connected with job, shares, debentures journeys and better prospects.

APRICORN

Dec 21—Jan 19
A great reaching out to people and places

Your efficiency will be appliated Home influences will be satisfying. In romance your heart will be a nest of singing birds in finances you will car pet-bomb your enemies and get the booty. Chronic health problems are foreseen but will be surmounted. There will be enough calls to keep you on your toes Expect an auspicious event in the family.

QUARIUS

Jan 20—Feb 18
A round of hard work, good spin-off, a bit of

a fling in matters of the heart and progress on the personal level are the week's highlights. In romance, your heart will ache and then find satisfaction. You do well in finance and the result will show in your bank balance or business. There will be more socialising visits than actual travel.

ISCES

Feb 19—March 20 Personal matters, refurbishing the image of the company and a possible

of the company and a possible job-switch are the areas which are activated this week in finance, you reach a step nearer your goal in romance, a sudden attraction and/or going steady are on the cards Health shows a marked improvement. The weekend favours travel Despite work pressures your home will not be neglected.



February 24

Moon titne Sun, square Venus-Children, entertainment and happiness in the home are predicted. But expenses will mount Your moods will swing tremendously, so try to be on an even teel. Flobbles and home give tremendous joy.

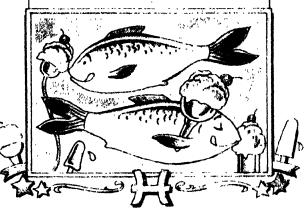
February 25

Moon time Fluto; Your secret desires will find fulfilment. Better prespects on the work front, fourney, collaborations and coremanies are the the which should gladden your heat. A year to reach for the mean.

February 26

Versue trine Pulic: There will be some applicable to your plans as the moon also apposes Batum. If could make refere planess. The health of stocks remains auspect, thereto from a tayourably algulated. Batum, it tayourably algulated. Batum, it tayourably algulated backup, it to servet areas a page of the servet areas and the servet areas a page of the servet areas and the servet areas and the servet areas areas and the servet areas are a servet areas are a servet areas and the servet areas are a servet areas are a servet areas and the servet areas are a servet areas areas are a servet are a servet areas are a servet are a servet areas areas are a servet areas areas are a servet areas are a servet areas are a servet areas
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OF PISCES

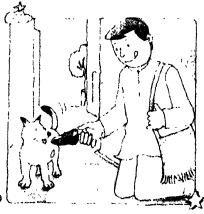




He could imagine a whole "dream with cream"



For her, the "ice age" is



His hard shell hides a soft heart



Her metting eyes shake The firmest resolutions



To him, music is fredfor body and soul



We've all the Kwality of a real Pisces

ND THAT'S HIS

ast month. Balwant Dinkar Deodhar. perhaps the only living personality **Iwh**o has a trophy named after him (the Deodhar Liophy for inter zonal one day cricket matches) notched up a rare Score again he hit a century of a different kind Deodhar did not represent India in Lest cricket, but played in domestic crick et well past his 50 And on January 14 Deodhar turned 100

I wo days before the grand day when this correspondent reached Pune the message received was that Professor Deodhar had been admitted to hospital and was under intensive care. It turned out to be a rumour spread intentionally to insulate the grand old man from media atten tion and the harsh glare of the spotlight With the help of Raja Oak, the man in charge of the Deodhar Irust we caught up with the Professor on the eve of his 100th birthday

It was a heartwarming sight a 'centu rion' moving about without anyone's assistance greeting everyone sipping his tea, signing autographs. Except for his walking stick he relies on nobody physically, the stick is his companion on the daily evening strolls in the garden

People and congratulatory telegrams began flowing in from eight in the morning of the birthday Telegrams from as far off as Sydney Like the one from one Basant Limaye who while congratulating him, brought to his notice a recent incident which to the sender was of great import ance During the Australia England series the Australian IV had telecast an inter view of the veteran Bill Ponsford and de scribed him as the oldest living cricketer (born 1900) and Limave wanted Prof. Deodhar to kindly pardon the ignorance of the Aussies

In sending telegrams Calcutta played a leading part. The first cable to reach Deodhar was from Mrs and Mr Marathe of 56 Lansdowne Road Among those who sent in their cables was Vijay Hazare the BCCI president Madhaviao Scindia tele phoned and Col Hemu Adhikari Chandu Borde, Hemant Kanitkar Pandurang Sal gaonkar the mayor of Pune were all there to shake him by the hand. But no one from among the presentday cricke ters! Not even a telegram, a postcard or a bouguet from them

Except Ajit Lendulkar, the elder brother of today's boy wonder, Sachin He had come down from Bombay on behalf of the whole Tendulkar family to wish the oldest living cricketer in the world

Excerpts from the interview



The first visitor, Saheli, to greet the Professor

B.D. Deodhar, the oldest living cricketer in the world, notched up his century last month. PARTHA RUDRA travelled to Pune to catch up with him

Photographs: Arunava Mukher jee

Living life, enjoying life



O: How does it feel to be a 'centurion'?

A: Larlier when I used to hear about someone living 100 years, I always dreamt of experiencing it myself. But now when I have actually reached the landmark, I find it's just like any other birthday. Only other people tend to make you feel that you have achieved something. So you feel great

Q: Has this been your toughest 100? A: Of course Because I was pitted against the most difficult bowler in the world Nature You cannot really sort out her vagaries And your loopholes are very well exposed. So you have to be extra cautious (laughs heartily)

Q: What is the basic difference between this 'ton' and those you scored on the cricket ground?

A. Whenever you cross 99 in cricket, you become a century maker. But in the crick et of life you have to live for 365 days (after 99 years) and complete it. Otherwise it could be like 'had landed on the moon but didn't step on it'

Q: How were the 'nervous 90s'

A: Well, I was definitely tense in the 90s But I didn't reveal that and kept it concealed till my sleep of the last night of my 90s I felt confident of waking up for my first 100th year morning. Maybe that was the time when I said to myself, 'Well done, boy

O: What is really the secret to your century?

A: Restraint and discipline

100!

'I felt confident of waking up for my first 100th year morning. Maybe that was the time I said to myself, "Well done, boy"

Q: You have seen the babe of Indian cricket, Sachin Tendulkar. What do you think of him?

A: Well, people are very justified in calling him a Wonderboy. In our days we had C.K. Nayudu. He was just a hard hitter. But Sachin is a destructor. On his day he can really destroy any top-class bowling. And that, too, by following the basics and grammar of cricket.

O: Did you find any flaws in him?

A: Only one. He has to keep a cool head. I saw him recently during a one-day match. He had anchored his team very well towards victory. But when it was just two runs away from the ultimate he threw his wicket in desperation. He shouldn't have done it. I believe experience will help him to mature on these aspects.

Q: Cricket has become more moneyoriented since your days, isn't it?

A: I am happy that the cricketers are getting more money. But at times I feel agitated when I find that for more money these people are involving themselves in modelling, private columns and what not. These may distract from their cricket.



The birthday boy with his family

Which is harmful for them in the long run. Cricket should be their only aim. I hope they keep it as their primary objective.

Q: Are you aware of the suspension of a few cricketers in the very recent past?
A: Oh, yes. I kept track of that. Well, I feel the Board chose a wrong path. Heal-

teel the Board chose a wrong path. Healthy discussions could have sorted it out. Anyway, the issue discredited the Board to some extent. They had to retreat at the Supreme Court.

Q: Your views about the Cricketers' Association?

A: Any association is good. But they should be careful. They should not turn it

into a trade union.

Q: How do you feel about the appointment of a cricket manager for the New Zealand and England tours?

'in our days we had C.K.
Nayudu. He was just a hard
hitter. But Sachin
(Tendulkar) is a destructor.
On his day he can really
destroy any top-class
bowling. And that, too, by
following the basics and
grammar of cricket'

A: Well, our set-up doesn't permit such a post. In Australia Bobby Simpson had taken up such a responsibility. But it was because they were building a team from scratch. In India such a situation has not arisen. Two or three positions are vacated to be filled up by others. Here, a skipper should be given responsibility for three or four years. I like Azhar. He should be retained for some time. I think he will do well

Q: What is your message on the occasion of your 100th birthday?

A: Live life, enjoy life. Fulfil your ambitions and be healthy.

The birthday lunch was as simple as the man himself





Devi Lal being served in brass bowls and thalis. He went away satisfied: 'This is the kind of meal we eat in our villages. Hardly five-star'

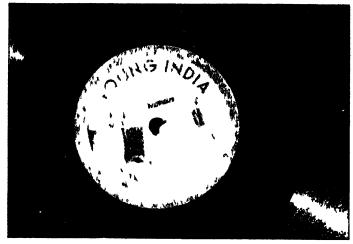


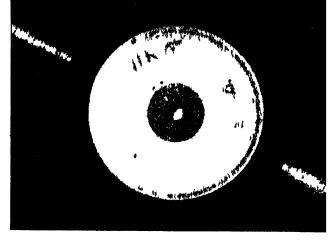
Charpais laid out so that the Tau's guests can feel at home

Tolur Curantina de la constanta de la constant



NOSTALGIA





From political messages to poetry recitation: All on record

MITS

The partial of the caravan passing through a village in Multan 80 years ago. Colour ful paintings curtain the cart while the sound of music wafts along. Little lads run merrily behind it. The caravan halts. Its curtains are raised. A shining horn placed on a polished wooden box meets the eye. It is charged by cranking the handle, the sound box is placed on a record and a human voice mesmenses them. They peer and poke and try to ascertain the source of the magical voice.

This is no tale from a thousand and one bedtime stories. Local dealers of the Gramophone Company in India would advertise gramophones and records in similar fashion in those days consciously projecting regional variations in culture. While a caravan was necessary in Multan an advertisement in a Bengali daily would show goddess Saraswati sitting bemused by the side of a cascade while a gramophone played at her feet.

To lure buyers to a compact package the company would offer say, five records free with every gramophone one with two film songs one having two bhajans another two come pieces two ghazals on one and a play on the last record. There were further unovations to make things more entertaining. A category of puzzle records earned great popularity. These double sided records had three songs on each side. But they were arranged not one after the other but in three separate concentric grooves. With a slight variation of the starting point each time, a different song would emerge baffling the listeners.

There were three main seasons for the

release of records—Christmas, Bengali New Year and the Pujas HMV brand machines in the Iwenties would cost around Rs 42 and eight annas and the ones prized higher were Rs 60 and Rs 80. Of course, there were Swiss and Japanese ones available at Rs 20 and Rs 30. A 10 inch 78 rpm record would approximately cost a rupee and six annas.

Lmile Berliner's gramophone saw the light of day in 1888 sonic 11 years after Edison invented the phonograph to reproduce recorded sound. The Gramophone Company was established in England in 1898 The original trademark of the company an angel sitting down and writing on a disc, was changed in 1899 to the legendary trademark of a dog listening to his master's voice. This century saw the opening of the first branch of the company in Calcutta in 1901. Seven years later its first foreign factory, which happened to be the first one in Asia too, was established at Behaghata **here.**

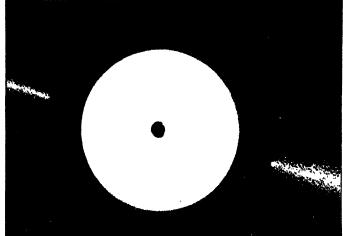
The first records were one-sided and only seven inches in diameter. The later ones were, on an average, 10 inches in size with a playing time of three and a half minutes. These would revolve at a speed of 78.26 per minute and the total revolutions would add up to 273 times. Then came double-sided records with one song on each side. Records with diameters of 11 and 12 inches followed allowing a playing time of four and a half minutes. But



With so many revolutions
in the history of the
record, specially with the
advent of the cassette, its
time seems to be running
out, But the romance of
the disc will remain
unmatched. Sarmistha
Dutta Gupta records her
nostalga

Paragraphs Subbajit Pal





GROOVE

these were mostly classical records whereas discs of smaller sizes, up to six inches, were also in vogue mataly for children.

Of the numerous varieties of records, those on translucent plastic (Film-O-Phone) label and of bendable and nonhendable cardboard ones (Nicole) label, around 1905, deserve special mention. then, there were the records And played on pathephone pioneered by a distinguished Indian, Hemendra Mohan Bose, His H. Bose and Company used the phonocut method to play records from inside to out. These would revolve at a speed of 100 rpm and had etched labels, not paper ones. He got them pressed mainly from France and Belgium. The company had the honour to record Rabindranath Tagore for the fist time in 1905.

A part from the Columbia and Odeon Locompanies, which tried to enter the Indian market but were ultimately taken over by the Gramophone Company, a few Indians made remarkable contributions to the recording industry. The National Gramophone Record Manufacturing Company in Bombay, founded by V. Shantaram, was foremost. Under the banner of Young India they used the national tricolour on their label and specialised in recording patriotic songs and film music. Marwari Records at Jodhnar in 1934 took particular interest in Manual which were typical of Rejasthan.

Three other companies in Calcutta, Hin-

Three other companies in Calcutta, Hindustan Records of Chandi Chatan Sana, Megaphone of Jiteutranath Choch and Senola of Biblioti Sen, all founded in 1962.

went a long way in enriching Hindustani vocal and Bengali music. Hindustan had the prerogative to record K.L. Saigal and S.D. Burman, both of whom were rejected by the Gramophone Company for their nasal intonations. Megaphone prided itself with Kazi Nazrul Islam and Begum Akhtar while Senola could boast of comic pieces of high standard.

The Gramophone Company, of course, recorded in as many as 40 languages of the sub-continent, including Nepalese, Tibetan, Sinhalese, Burmese, Pushtu and Urdu. The Nepalese and Tibetan recordings were mainly of devotional repertoire and the most popular artistes were Dol Bahadur and Seturam (Nepalese), Lama Namge, Damu Hatima and Dhandhup (Tibetan). The Pushtu singers in great demand were Aga Sheher Gul, Aga Amir and Gauhar Jaan.

Artistes would have to sit in front of the horn and sing in the days of acoustical recording. The sound notes would be etched on a disc. There was no sophisticated way of detecting the sensitivity of pitch and amplitude. Hence a recordist would sit behind the artiste, holding his/her face in both hands. He had to draw back the face of the singer when the notes reached a high pitch. Conversely, it had to be pushed forward, nearer to the horn, when the song touched a low key!

Thus, it was extremely important for an artiste to sing loudly for good recording. This is probably one of the reasons for the partiest singers being mostly hairs. This could be indeed to the practice of artistes

specifying themselves as 'amateurs' to distinguish themselves from professionals at a later day when more and more of them began recording music.

An interesting example of religion corning in the way of business may be observed in the case of an erstwinterenowned singer, K. Mallik. Born as Mohammed Kasem he had come to Calcutta to make a career in music. His men-

A RECORD OF RECORDS

1902: First Indian to record a song—Sashimukhi Debi of Calcutta's Classic Theatres. The song, Kanha jeevan dhan from the play Sri Krishna.

1904: First double-sided record released in India on Odeon label.

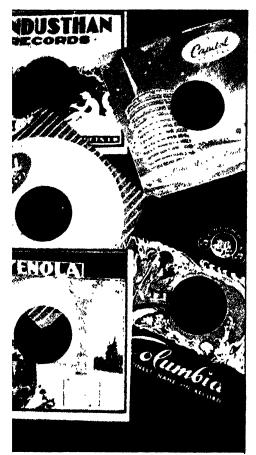
1912-13: Amala Das (C. R. Das's sister), first Indian woman of a respectable family to come out of *purdah* and record a song.

1915: First Indian to receive royalty as composer for records: Rabindranath Ragore.

1925: First record to carry names of the lyricist and composer of a song.
1926: First electrical record released

1934: First film song on disc from V. Shantaram's Sairendhree.

tor, Gorachand Mullick, helped him record at the Becca studio, where he sang a number of Hindu devotional songs. The company did not dare to lose business by releasing Shyamas ingect records sung by a Muslim. Therefore, 'K' from Kasem and 'Mallik' from Gorachand's surname was





Some of the record covers: Olde worlde charm

coined to form K. Mallik, a name that earned much fame and brought heavy profits for the company.

The earliest records never carried the

names of artistes, let alone those of lyricists and composers. The singer, announcing his or her name is an oddity in all such records. This was generally done

SOME OF THEIR FIRSTS

Rabindranath Tagore: 1906; Bandemataram and Sonar Tori (recitation); H. Bose and Company

Amala Das: 1912-13; Baro bishmoyo lage and Eto ki bhalo re kala; GCI

Angurbala Debi: 1920; Bandho na torikhani and kala tor tobe kadamtalay; GCl

Dilip Kumar Roy: 1925; Chhilo shey boshi kusumkanone and Rangajaba ke dilo tore paye; GCI;

Kamala Jharia: 1930; Priyo jeno prem bhulo na and nithur nayan baan keno hano; GCI

K. L. Saigal: 1932; Jhulan jhula and Hari he brajaraj; HR

S. D. Burman: 1932; Aei pathe aaj esho priya and Dakle kokil roj bihane; HR

Pankaj Mullick: 1932; Pralay nachan nachle jakhon and Tomar ashan shunya; HR

Juthika Roy: 1933; Ami bhorer juthika and Sanjher taroka ami; GCI Sisir Kumar Bhaduri: 1934; Alamgir (play); HR

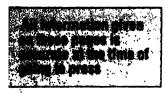
Faiyaz Khan: 1935; Garaya maisung and Manmohan jeevan; HR Debabrata Biswas (with Kanak Das): 1939-40; Hingshay unmatta

prithvi and Sankochero biubhalata GCI

at the end of a recital. Sometimes the singers even announced their addresses! Malka Jaan, the Hindustani vocalist, can be heard saying, "My name is Malka Jaan, 27 Mosque Lane, Calcutta."

Until the time the composers and lyricists acquired copyrights, songs were categorised in a quaint manner. For example, Rabindrasangeet was passed as jangla for a long time and sometimes as beshyageeti. Words were often changed and tunes varied at will. A famous record by Amala Das has the song, Ami kothay pabo tare, which is bound to be mistaken as Rabindrasangeet unless one listens carefully and realises that it was written by Gagan Harkara. There were also groups of 'male songs' and 'female songs.' Some 78 rpms have rare renditions of solo harmonium or specimens of unique regional styles, like garba songs sung in ghazal style, to make the study of Indian music immensely rewarding.

We acknowledge the invaluable assistance provided by Subir Ghosh of the Gramophone Company of India, Sovan Lal Saha of Hindustan Records, Charoo Prokash Ghosh and Parimal Roy.



REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

 Daddy: Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue: 274259)—4 shows.

Anupam Kher plays the title ole of an alcoholic father in this Mahesh Bhatt film. Also starring ire Pooja Bhatt, Manohar Singh, soni Razdan, Neena Gupta and Avtar Gill. The music is by Rajesh Roshan.

• Farishtay: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Vaaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue; 390762), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Khanna (APC Road; 351382), Purabi (Mahatma Jandhi Road; 350680), Indira (Inlira Roy Road; 471757), Priya Rashbehari Avenue; 464440), Madhuban (Regent Park).

A film by Anil Sharma, starring harmendra, Vinod Khanna, iridevi, Rajnikant, Jaya Prada, culbhushan Kharbanda and iadashiv Amrapurkar. The music by Bappi Lahiri.

• Hum: Orient (Bentinck Street; 81917), Talkie Show House Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270).

and Kader Khan. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Patthar Ke Phool: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Jagat (APC Road; 365108), Ragini (Belaghata Main Road; 363264).

A love story, starring Salman Khan and debutante Raveena Tandon. The film is directed by Anant Balani and the music is by Ram Laxman.

• Pyar Ka Devta: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138)—4 shows.

Directed by K. Bapaiah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the chief attractions of this film are Mithun Chakraborty, Madhuri Dixit, Rupa Ganguly, Shakti Kapoor, Moushumi Chatterjee and Kader Khan.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664) - 4 shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Chandni play the lead. Others costarring are new-find Kanchan, Puneet Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Danny and Pran. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh-Kishor.

• Saugandh: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383)—4 shows. A film by Raj Sippy, starring

A film by Raj Sippy, starring Raakhee, Akshay Kumar, Shantipriya, Mukesh Khanna, Pankaj



Valeria Golino and Dustin Hoffman in Rain Man

Roychoudhury, the cast includes Anil Chatterjee, Manoj Mitra, Jayasree Sen, Dilip Roy, Piyah Chatterjee, Bimal Dev, Kalvani Adhikari and Pradip Ghosh.

• Sadharan Meye (A): Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567)---2.30, 5.36, 8.15.

Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy, Rupa Ganguly, Kali Banerjee, Madhabi Mukherjee, Huma Khan, Sahila Chadda and Swarup Dutta are the chief attractions. The film is directed by Samit Bhanja and the music is by Kanu Bhattacharya.

• Sindur: Minar (Bidhan Saran; 552753), Bijoh (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3 shows.

Chiranjeet, Santwana Bose, Bi plab Chatterjee and Sumitra Mukherjee are the chief attractions. The film is directed by Anandam and the music is by Sumit Baneriee.

Foreign Films

• Rain Man (U/A): New Empire (Humayun Place; 291299)—4 shows.

Winner of four Academy awards, the film stars Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise and Valena Golino.

• Shaker Run: Chaplin (Corporation Place)—4 shows.
The film stars Cliff Reports on

The film stars Cliff Robertson, Leif Garrett and Lisa Harrow.

Special Events

24-27 February; 1 March: 6

Rabindra Bharati University's

cultural programme features Shastriya Sangeeter Bibhinna Geetiroop, Kırtan, patriotic and mass songs, Bharata Natyam and mime on 24th; ehage Bahare, Tala Tarang, Kathak, mime and Rabindranather Kolkata on 25th; Sishu Tirtha, Bangla Gaaner Prem Sangeet and dance drama Tasher Desh on 26th; classical vocal music, tabla lahara, solo classical vocal, Odissi, and dance drama Nabin on 27th; and Lok Utsaver Gaan and the play, Muktadhara, on 1st.

At Sisir Mancha (1 AJC Bose Road) on 24th and 25th; at Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road; 289978) on 26th, 27th and 1st.

24 February - 2 March
An exhibition of drawings and paintings of Atul Bose.

At Galerie '88 (Shakespeare Saranı).

24-27 February: 3 pm - 8 pm An exhibition of Pradosh Paul's paintings in the North Gallery. 24 February onwards: 3 pm -8 pm

Prof. Earnst Degasperi will hold his exhibition of paintings in the Central Gallery till March 3.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302).
24 February onwards: 3 pm -

7 pm
An exhibition of Shuvaprasan-

na's paintings and drawings, till March 10.

At Artage (6/1A Palm Avenue; 473284/290697).

24 February onwards

An exhibition of Ram Kumar's recent drawings and paintings, till March 5.



lebashree Roy and Tapas Paul in Sadharan Meye

asusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 84808).

Directed by Mukul S. Anand, ie film stars megastar Amitabh achchan along with Rajnikant, ovinda, Kimi Katkar, Deepa ahi, Shilpa Shirodkar, Danny Detongpa, Anupam Kher, Romesh harma, Annu Kapoor, Shammi

Dheer and Rupa Ganguly.

Bengali Films

• Kagajer Nauko: Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Charidra Bose Road; 271282), Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080)—3 shows.

Directed by Sekhar Sarkar and with music by Chandan

At Chitrakoot Art Gallery (55 Gariahat Road; 755314).

24 February: 7 pm

Khela presents A Man for All Seasons—a play by Robert Bolt and directed by Vimal Bhagat. The cast includes Vimal Bhagat, Ashok Lath, Saroj Mehera, Dean Mistry, Deepak Atal, Sunil Gupta, Punam Singh, Tina Colah, Tilak Mehera and Gautam Ahuja.

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street: 225215/3516).

25 February onwards: 3 pm -8 pm

Anup Giri will hold his exhibition of paintings in the West Gallery, till March 3.

 Sanjoy Bhattacharjee and others will hold a week-long exhibition of paintings in the New South Gallery.

 A week-long exhibition of Dilip Kumar Basak's exhibition of handicrafts in the South Gallery.

• Birnal Sarkar will hold his paintings exhibition in the New Gallery till March 3.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road: 284302). 26 February: 6 pm

Amateur Dramatists Calcutta



presents a Bharata Natyam recital by Kumari Priya Haran, disciple of Rajalakshmi Venkateshwar.

At Birla Academy of Art & Culture (108-109 Southern Avenue; 467843/9802).

26 & 27 February: 6 pm

Sanskritiki's cultural program-me features Indranil Sen (folk songs) and Jayanta Bose (Bengali songs) on 26th; and Dipak Rudra (Rabindrasangeet) and Kalyani Roy (sitar) on 27th.

At Kala Mandir Basement (48 Shakespeare Sarani; 449086). 27 February onwards: 11 am -7 pm (except holidays)

Forum for Art and Research and the Good Time Art Shop present a fortnight-long exhibition of drawings and paintings by Katayun Saklat, Alok Bhattacharya, Biswapati Maiti, Tapan Mitra, Nikhilesh Das. Kanchan Chander, Rajeev Lochan and Indira Puri Mistry.

At the Good Time Art Shop (27 Theatre Road).

27 February: 5.30 pm

Peshkar's evening of classical music features Tejendranarayan Majumdar (sarod) with Subhen Chatterjee (tabla), and Mitali Sen-gupta (vocal) with Manas Chakraborty (tabla) and Ramen Saha (harmonium).

At Birla Academy of Art & Culture (108-109 Southern Avenue: 467843/9802).

2 & 3 March: 5.30 pm

Surdas Sangeet Sammelan's classical music sessions features Samta Prasad (tabla lahara), Jatin Bhattacharya (sarod), Manzoor Hussain, Nasir Hussain and party (qawali), Bandana Sen (Kathak), Ileana Citaristi (Odissi), Swapnamoy Banerjee (sarod) and Ruma Chakraborty (bhajan).

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road: 289978).

Planes

7.0AYS

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915;

Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): Al-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2025. London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7):

Al-132/1328 at 1230.

* Moscow-Sherjah-Calcutta: Arr.

(4): SU-537 at 1625.
* Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1825.

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanoi: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0755; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0905.

Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1755; Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1905.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-185 at 0630.

Amman-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184 at 0800

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-420 at 1310.

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at 1210

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep (2, 4, 7): IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7). IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-

313 at 1240. Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-747' at 1600; Dep (1, 5): FA-214 at 1530.

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): RA-213 at 1430.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (3, 6): IC-723 at 1340; Dep. (daily): BG-092 at 1150 and BG-098 at 2020; Dep. (1, 4, 7). BG-094 at 1700. Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr. (3, 6): IC-724 at 1600; Arr. (daily): BG-091 at 1110 and BG-097 at 1940; Arr. (1,

4, 7): BG-093 at 1620. Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5): BG-698 at 1355.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 1310.

Calcutta-Parc: Dep. (2): KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India www

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (2). Al-101 at 0230.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): Al-1328 at 1230.

Indian Airlines 🛲 🕮

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-765 at 1700; Arr. (daily): IC-766 at 2210.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-771 at 0610; Arr. (daily); IC-772 at 1200.

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1545.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-.ucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-410 at 0905.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340; Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0800, Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-743 at 1330, Dep. (3, 5, 6, 7): Printed here is the regular indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266869, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

IC-241 at 0700, Dep. (1, 2, 4): IC-241 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-744 at 1600, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1350, Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 0900. Calcutta-Port Biair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6). IC-285 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 1400; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1730.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1320.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600: Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (daily): IC-255 at 1050; Arr. (daily): IC-256 at 1530

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910.

Celcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-270 at 2040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-219 at 0840; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-220 at 1320. Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 7): IC-277 at 1745; Arr. (1, 2, 7):

IC-278 at 2215. Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 0700; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at Calcutta-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 6); IC-259 at 1330; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-260 at 1610.

Vavudoot

Calcutta-Agartala-imphal: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-727 at 0530; Arr. (1, 3, 5), PF-728 at 1120.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (7): PF-729A at 0550; Arr. (7): PF-730A at 1050.

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-701 at 1140; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-702 at 1615.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kallashahar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-729 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-730 at 1040.

Calcutta-Silcher-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-701 at 1100; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-702 at 1715.

Calcutta-Rourkela: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-715 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-716 at 0855.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (2. 6): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (2, 6): PF-710 at 1840.

Calcutte-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (4): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (4): PF-710 at 1750.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (7): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (7): PF-710 at 1705.

Calcutta-Alzawi-Slichar-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-

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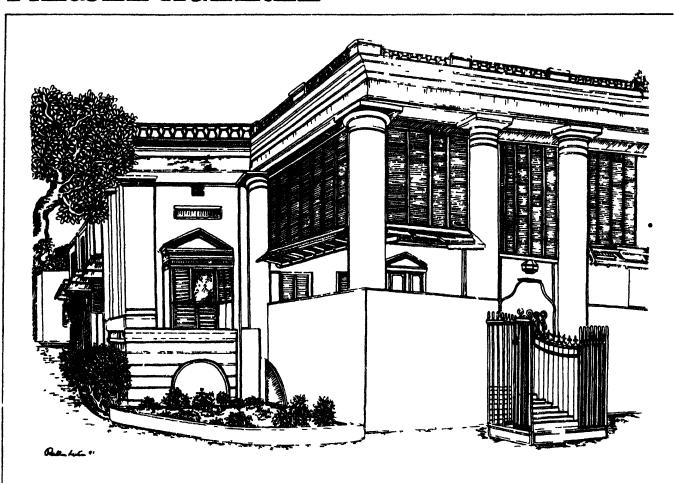
4, 6) PF- 717 at 0550, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0745
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HERITAGE & Rathin Mitra

PARSEE AGIAREE



After the Persian Empire was overthrown by the Arabs, a number of Parsees migrated from Fars and settled in Gujarat in 651 AD. They followed the British from Surat to Bombay when the East India Company shifted to the port city

Dadabhoy Behramii Banaji was the first Parsee to settle in Calcutta in 1707. The Bana jis were followed by the Umrigars, Wadias, Mehtas, Saklats and Madans. Sir Jamesetjee Jeejeebhoy, the first Indian barchet, staved in Calcutta as a young lad of 16 from October-November 1799 to November-December 1800 for purposes of business and to prepare himself for trade with China. The first Parsee Tower of Silence, built by Nowrojee

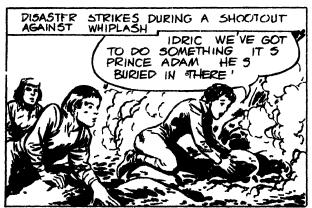
Sorabjee Bengalee, was consecrated on January 28, 1822 at Beliaghata, which was then a suburb of Calcutta

The Parsee Agiaree or the Fire 1 emple the first of its kind in the region, was built by Rustomiee Cowasiee Banajee at 26 Ezra Street in central Calcutta and was consecrated on September 16, 1839 Rustomjee was a prominent shipbuilder. Besides building a number of ships at the Kidderpore Docks, he owned his own fleet On a marble slab at the entrance of the Parsee temple on Ezra Street is inscribed. "In the name of the Holy Hormuzd, this Fire Temple was built at Calcutta by Rustomjee Cowasjee Banajee, Esq. and who consecrated it according

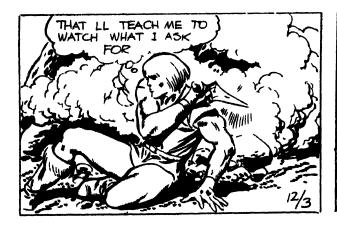
to the rites of the Masdiasna Religion for the service of God and the observances of Sacred Rites of the Zoroastrian Religion in the 3rd year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the 17th day Shurosh of the 1st month Furvurdeen Kudmee in the year of Yezdezerd 1209 and of Zoroaster 2229 (corresponding to Monday, the 16th September of the Christian year 1839) "

In 1839 when the first Fire Temple was consecrated, there were only 40 Parsees in Calcutta Now there are more than 1,000 of them in the city But their numbers are gradually declining due to their high standards of living, low fertility and a steep rise in the marnage of girls outside their community.











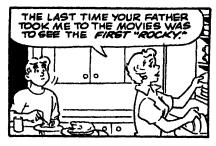




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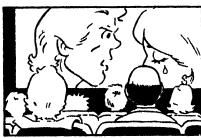








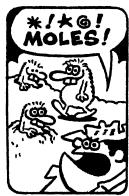


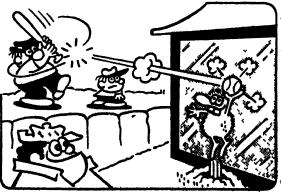






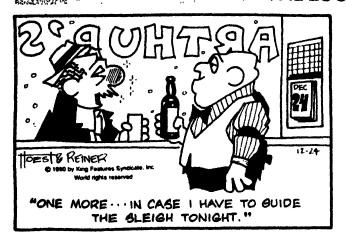






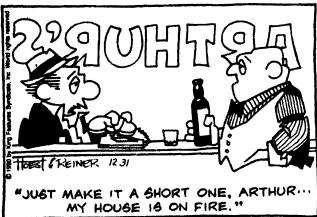


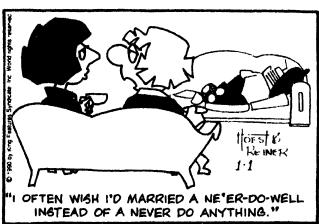
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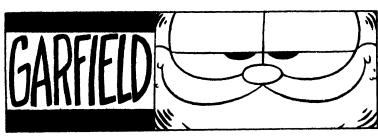


Carried Contract





GARFIELD By Jim Davis

















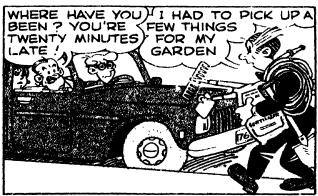
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP.

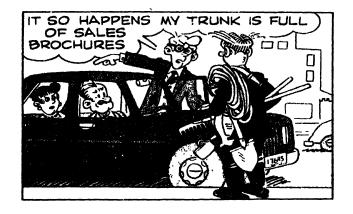


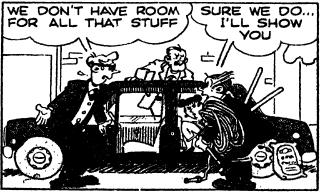


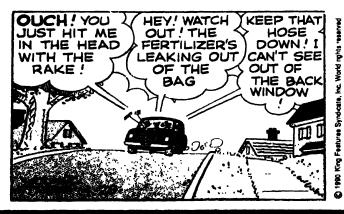


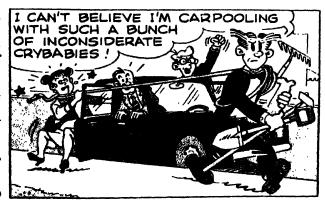














Sesame Seed Potato Curry: Nepal

This is a staple vegetable dry curry preparation in Nepal and many hill regions. Distinct and exhibitating.

Serves 4 Cooking Time. 25-30 minutes

Method

Boil, peel and quarter the potatoes and keep aside.

Take 3 tablespoons of the sesame seeds and roast dry till light brown on a griddle and keep aside. When cold, keep half a tablespoon for the during-cooking masala, grind the rest. Keep 1 tablespoon of the powder for the garnish masala. Make the remaining powder into a paste with a little water for use in the follow-up masala. Keep aside.

Liquidise the singe-fry masala in a blender with 1 teaspoon of water and keep aside.

Take a wok or a cooking pan, bring oil to smoking, add the liquidised singe-fry masala and stir fry till oil is released. Add the potatoes and stir fry. Now add the

British	Metric	Ingredients	Americar
2½ lb	1 kg	potatoes	2½ lb
5 fl oz (1 cup)	150 ml	cooking oil, preferably mustard	\$ cup
	singe-	fry masala (as paste)	
4	4	green chillies	4
1 oz (1½ cups)	30 g	green coriander, chopped	1 cup
1 bulb	15–20 g	garlic, cloved	1 bulb
1½ tbsps	15 g	1½ tbsps	
2 tsps	10 g	salt, to taste	2 tsps
	f	ollow-up masala	
2 tbsps	18 g	sesame seed (I), roasted & ground with a little water	2 tbsps
	duri	ing-cooking masala	
1 tbsp	7.5 g	amchoor	1 tbsp
tbsp	4.5 g	sesame seed (II), roasted	½ tbsp
	(garnish masala	
tbsp	4.5 g se	esame seed (III), roasted & powdered	½ tbsp



follow-up masala. Keep stir frying and add the during-cooking masala. Check for salt and sourness. Before serving, sprinkle the garnish masala. This curry is semi-liquid.

NOTE: It goes well with Indian fried bread like puri, paratha. May also be eaten with boiled rice.

This is a common wayside preparation for trekkers and commuters in the hilly areas. Boiled and quartered potatoes may be stored. Similarly the singe-firy masala is ground and kept as paste. The sesame seeds roasted-pasted and roasted-powdered are kept in separate bottles. When a traveller turns up at one of the wayside tea-shops, he is served almost instantly with this curry along with hot puries.

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India

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That same lice comb, every single day. It's agony for your little daughter. It

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POST MORTEM

Lake New World

The cover story, 'Real or Fake?' (January 13) was shocking. The people be-hind the world of spurious items seem to be beyond the reach of the police and that is why their business is doing so well while our lives are doomed.

It is now common to cheat people on anything from medicine to perfect looking film rolls. I have

And all this for what? Just to gain a few extra pennies. Are human beings capable of such brutal deeds just to line their pockets? It is shocking.

The question is, how are the people committing these crimes flourishing? Either the authorities are not vigilant or they are corrupt. It is time the masses woke up from their slumber and caught the culprits red-handed, stripped them cally speaking, rapeseed and not true mustard which

The difference between the Indian rapeseed and its Canadian counterpart is in the chemical composition of the seed. Canadian researchers have worked for many years to evolve varieties that are low in glucosinolates and erucic acid, both of which are harmful to us. The former, which give the characteristic pungency to the socalled mustard oil, are known to impair thyroid functioning, while erucic acid is bad for the heart.

This Canadian brand oil is very good and used in North America and Europe. It is only in India that it has to be blended with poisonous phosphorus compounds to make it acceptable to our people! Partha R.Das Gupta,

Calcutta

■ Now whenever I go to the market, one question haunts me: Am I inviting trouble even after spending hard earned money? Manohar Mandal,

Nabadwip (W.B.)

■ From the cradle to the grave we are now exposed to adulteration, cheating and deceit. There seems to be no escape from it all because the police and responsible authorities turn a blind eye to the heinous crimes simply for their haf-

Sirajus Salekin, Calcutta

Two inadvertent errors appeared in our story, The Best and the Brightest, (February 17). The annual budget of the TIFR for 1990-91 was Rs 40 crore and not Rs 400 crore. The sentence on quantum mechanics should have read, "Which is why great minds like Einstein believed that something was wrong with it (quantum mechanics)," and not as printed. The errors are regretted.—Editor.



This is for real: or is it?

personally been a victim of this.

The consumers should join hands and fight this onslaught of fake products. In this age of people's power, if dictators can be annihilated, why not these dangerous cheats?

Harekrushna Mahanta Bokara (Bihar)

■ The story was like something out of a horror tale. Meat turning out to be cat or rat's flesh, talcum powder made out of French chalk, baby food and milk powder adulterated with talcum powder and much

naked and subjected them to torture of similar kind.

Sandeep Dasgupta, Rourkela (Bihar)

■ The Behala rapeseed oil tragedy is a glaring example of misguided preferences owing to ignorance. Most of us are not aware that the relatively bland and light coloured rapeseed oil. most of which is imported from Canada, is much better for human health than Indian mustard oil. What is sold as mustard oil in our country is predominantly the oil of saison and toria both of which are, botani-

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

The recent discovery of a 135 million year old tossil indicates that some birds were skilled fliers many many years earlier than scientists thought



There is now a playback singer available literally for a song. The voices of a new generation are here

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Comics

ವೆಓ್ In the News



BIRDWATCH

■ vidence that many birds were skilled fliers millions of years earlier than a scientists thought has recently been scientists thought has recently been unearthed in China.

The fossil of a small bird and a similar fossil found in Spain a few years ago help fill a major gap in avian evolution. They suggest that birds that could fly were both numerous and diverse in the Cretaceous Period, 70 million to 140 million years ago.

The latest fossil, estimated to be 135 million years old, was found in a farmer's field in Liaoning Province in northeastern China. It indicates an agile, sparrow-sized bird that could perch in trees and dart through the air to snare insects.

"If you saw this bird perched in a tree it would probably appear modern, with flying and perching abilities virtually identical to today's birds," says paleontologist Paul Sereno of the University of Chicago. Sereno, who led the painstaking reconstruction of the fossil at the University of Chicago and the Field Museum, notes three features that are also seen in modern birds: A keeled breastbone, a short tail that shifts the bird's balance over its wings and grasping feet.

The Chinese fossil is about 10 million years older than the one found in Spain and just 10 million to 15 million years younger than archaeopteryx, the oldest known birdlike animal.

"Discovery of the Spanish bird and now our fossil indicate flying and perching birds must have been prevalent on land areas in the early Cretaceous," says Sereno.

"The Chinese bird was found in sediment that once formed the bottom of a freshwater lake, which was at least 200 miles from an ocean. Most of the other avian fossils found later in this period belongs to ocean shore birds that could neither fly well nor perch in trees.'

Blank evolutionary pages have separated 145 million-year-old archaeopteryx and 70 million-year-old Hesperornis and Ichthyornis, the earliest other known

Hesperornis was a flightless animal found in chalk beds in western Kansas, once an inland sea. The toothed, loonlike swimmer may have given birth to live young and may never have come to dry land. Its wings, no more than stubs, were useless for flight. Ichthyornis (fish bird), the first previously known bird with wings developed for sustained flight, was the size of a gull, had teeth and probably ate fish. It thrived in areas of Kansas and Texas.

A cross between a bird and a reptile.

Facing page: Part bird, part reptile, the 145 million-year-old archaeopteryx is the oldest birdlike creature

The 145 million-year-old archaeoptervx is considered the oldest bird-like creature but that was only part-bird. A recent discovery of a 135 million-year-old fossil in China suggests that skilled fliers existed much earlier than scientists

crow-sized archaeopteryx combined the attributes of both. It had the clawed fingers of a dinosaur, the scaly head and long bony tail of a lizard, and the toothed iaw of a crocodile.

thought

William Color of the State of t

I've seen in detailed photographs, elements of the pelvis retain some of the same characteristics as archaeopteryx, says John H. Ostrom, a Yale University geology professor "At the same time it has developed modern birdlike features characteristic of a good flier.'

Describing the fossil as 'very exciting,' Ostrom says its import is that "either the changes making a modern bird occurred very rapidly or modern bird lineages predate archaeopteryx. There'll be a lot of discussion about this.'

Experts agree that as the epochs succeeded one another, climates and landforms changed and new birds evolved. Many familiar species appeared about 60 million years ago: herons, ducks, vultures, hawks, grouse, cranes, owls.

Songbirds, the most recent group to make their debut, emerged about 30 million years ago. Favoured with flight and with little competition from earthbound creatures, the ancestors of many of today's species multiplied. Others, such as vultures with wings stretching 12 ft from tip to tip, disappeared during the ice ages.

In 1980 scientists unearthed a fossil of a

Detailed reconstruction of the oldest true bird shows a sparrow-sized creature with long, curved claws that could perch in trees and dart through the air to snare insects 135 million years ago in what is now China. The bird is estimated to be just 10 million years younger than archaeopteryx, the oldest birdlike creature

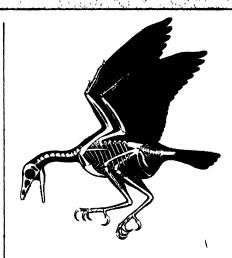
Archaeopteryx (ancient wing) lived when the biggest of the dinosaurs roamed the earth about 140 million years ago. Although it may have inhabited other parts of the world, its bones have been found in only one region of southern Germany.

Since all modern birds that fly have asymmetrical flight feathers such as those of archaeopteryx, it is logical to believe it too could fly. But experts still debate whether archaeopteryx was a feeble flier or could even take off from the ground. It had the large wishbone that aids powered flight but possibly lacked the hollow bones and keel-shaped breastbone that made its descendants master fliers.

A new theory holds that archaeopteryx was a good flier that muscled its way into the air. "Archaeopteryx physiologically was still a reptile, but it had the muscle power of today's birds," says John Ruben, an Oregon State University zoologist.

He theorises that muscle power compensated for skeletal shortcomings and made it a skilled short-distance flier. "It probably could flap around for two or three minutes at a time, but it certainly didn't undertake any long distance migrations. says Ruben.

The Chinese bird may be distantly related to archaeopteryx. "Based on what



predator that had soared over Argentina between 5 million and 8 million years ago. The largest flying bird known, it weighed about 200 pounds and could have looked a six foot human in the eve. About the size of a hang glider, it shadowed the landscape on wings spanning 25 ft.

The largest flying bird today, the wandering albatross, glides over the southern oceans on wings that only stretch 11.5 ft.

(National Geographic News Service)

alcuttans react strangely to lunatics. Those unhappy people whose brains cannot cope with the stress of life

any more. An example:

Around 8.30 pm in the fover of Howrah Station. A man in tattered khaki shorts and shirt is crawling around trying to kiss everybody's feet. Both his legs are polioravaged. There's an expression on his face that's going to haunt me for a long time. It's as if his entrails are being ripped out and he is half enjoying it. Some people laughed. The laughter had Bengali voicesattached to it. There was no derision in the laughter. It was like they were watching Charlie Chaplin in action. Elsewhere, the laughter might stink of derision. The mad man might get rained with stones. People might look away. But the voices were genuinely amused. And when a small boy troubled the madman, the voices abused the kid.

Another example: A wild-haired, wildeyed character with bits of black cloth sticking to his body threw his chappals to a distance. Then he ran after them screeching. He retrieved the chappals, hurled them to where he stood previously and ran back screeching. The encore was performed eight times. The voices howled in delight. A dog appeared and proceeded to chase the mad man. The people chased the dog away.

Lurking somewhere deep in those reactions, playing peek-a-bo, might be the answer this article is looking for. How does the Calcuttan cope with Calcutta?

The question is not whether stress exists in the Calcuttan's life. Nor whether Calcuttans can manage stress. The question that has visitors frantically scratching their heads is how Calcuttans manage the stress in this city's life. Most often, I found it's like asking a duck to explain how it manages to swim so well.

The typical Mr Baneriee says goodbye to the wife, kisses the kids and sets off for work. He seems to spend an eternity at the bus-stop. On the way, there is a procession, the traffic snarls up. He's late at the office. There's no power, so he has to climb 10 floors, damn what the doctor said it could do to his heart. He reaches his desk and has to make quick telephone calls to catch up lost time. If the phone at his end is breathing, the line at the other end is dead. Now the Banerjee equivalent in any other city might be tempted to dive out of the 10th floor minus the parachute. Not so our Calcuttan Mr Banerjee. To him, it is all in a day's work.

Stress in personal life is universal. But here in Calcutta there's another dimension. What you can take for granted in other cities, you can't take for granted in Calcutta. The essential factors of daily life exist here in a state of permanent hiccoughs—power, telephones, transport,

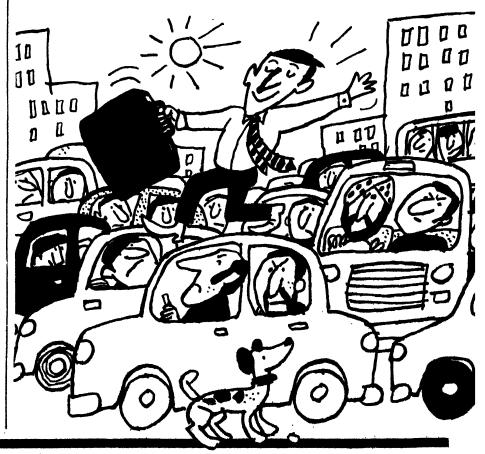
COPING WITH

It's easy. Ask the
Calcuttans who have
perfected the art; the art
of taking stress as it
comes. M. Raja takes a
hard look at the tension of
working, and of
not working

fuel, traffic, noise-air pollution, prices, over-crowding, everything getting done in Calcuttan Standard Time. It's as if some devilish joker had gathered all the chaotic ingredients in our Indian life, shoved it in a city more than nine million strong with a magnifying glass attached.

You can't escape from stress, which is particularly complex in today's silicon-chip society. The ability to cope with stress has loomed permanently in psychoanalytic re-search. J. Ingram Walker of the Duke University Medical Centre found that most people are able to cope quite well with the everyday stress of normal living. But when the normal living gets blasted by problems ballooning up faster than they can be caught up with, a person's adaptive capabilities get mauled. The result: chronic illness, severe depression, frustration. A traffic jam is stress at the lower end of the scale compared to having to cope with the death of a beloved one. But add that traffic jam to all the complications in getting the basics of everyday life, and you've got a mess on hand.

In 1926, Hans Selye, a Canadian scientist who's pioneered in stress research, began snooping into the effects of stress on the body. Selye realised that people showed signs of fatigue and general discomfort following a physical or emotional stress. He declared that the response to



CALCUTTA

stress involves three possible stages. The first stage, called the alarm reaction sees the secretion of epinephrine (adrenalin) by the adrenalin gland. It preparés the individual for 'fight' or 'flight'. During the alarm reaction, pulse and respiratory rates go up, blood pressure rises. In the second resistance stage, the pituitary gland produces hormonal and neural changes all over the body until the stressful situation has passed. The changes include an increase in strength, energy, and body defences perk up. Long-continued stress leads to the exhaustion stage. Here the person's condition might deteriorate to the extent of death through heart failure. And a lot of other less unpleasant results.

This is where the contradictions start smirking at you. People aren't exactly dropping dead from stress all over Calcutta, are they? Neither is there any desperate exodus to the less stressful pastures in other cities. It's the other way around. Daily, there are thousands attaching themselves permanently to the millions already here. And people here aren't staggering

reaction sees (adrenalin) by arés the indiring the alarm tory rates go in the second ary gland proal changes all ssful situation include an inand body detinued stress in a permanent state of mourning, either. The city pulsates with life. It's as vibrant as a tuning fork hit by a missile. And as for the joy around, ask Dominique Lapierre about it.

So what gives? "Stress has become a part of our daily lives," said a young Calcuttan. "It's like religion. You don't pay too much notice to it."

Indrajit Mallick is the regional sales manager of Sonata, a software firm. He was

Indrajit Mallick is the regional sales manager of Sonata, a software firm. He was born in Calcutta, lived away from it all his life and was back in his birth town a month ago on a transfer. "The most stressful thing here I find in work is that people can't or won't keep their appointments. Just today, an important industrialist lady was to meet me, but she didn't show up. My whole schedule for the day is upset." He adds, "But it's not that I wasn't told what to expect. It's not that I came to Calcutta and got the shock of my life."

around with long faces looking like they are

Being told what to expect—that's the key to how temporary residents survive in Calcutta. You tell the passenger in midflight: "We're having engine problems. Prepare for an emergency landing." He might panic, go through the motions of extreme stress. But you tell the same passenger while handing over the boarding pass: "We're likely to have engine problems. So we might be coming down in a hurry." If the boarding pass is still used, the stress becomes something different.

Marlene Manna is a German-born, naturalised Indian working for a well-known European airline. "In our office, if there comes a day when we don't have a power cut or power failure, we will think there is something terribly wrong!" she laughs. "It's so boring in Germany. There, there are no power cuts, the telephones work. My relatives if they come here to stay, might go crazy. But to me, it's sunk into the sub-consciousness. I know it's there, but I don't feel the stress any more."

Her colleague Nivedita Karlose has spent all of her 35 years in Calcutta. "You do feel like grabbing the people responsible for the problems and hanging them up in the trees in the Maidan," she says. "But we don't do it because we don't have the energy to do it, I suppose." She adds bitterly, "Even a basic commodity like bread is hard to get. And if it's tough for the upper middle class people, can you imagine what it must be like for the poorer sections? We're like sheep. We just get

driven in life like cattle. Do cattle feel stress?"

There's that basic recipe. Take a dollop of sarcasm, add a dash of humour, deep fry it in cynicism, garnish it with our spicy Indian fatalism and holler "medicine's ready". The antidote to handling stress in Calcutta. Like an corridors, there seems to be a survival corridor here. The rules in the corridor are a number of don'ts like—don't complain too much, don't push too hard for things to happen, anything can happen here, so don't be too surprised it on Monday morning you see a hippopotamus belting out Elvis Presley numbers on Chowringhee Road.

If you habitually stray out of the survival corridor, one of two things can happen. One is that you pack your bags and sing farewell to Calcutta. The other is you end up chasing your own chappals, screeching.

The people who choose the first option are the hard driving professionals. Like the cream of the local advertising arena talent

American psychiatrists, Thomas H. Holmes and Richard Rahe, devised the Social Readjustment Scale which ranks 43 different types of stress. One wonders what the number would have been if those two gentlemen had lived in Calcutta

moving over to Bombay. "There's a poverty of professions in Calcutta," said a subeditor of a local newspaper. "There's a poverty of opportunities. If you are too ambitious you are in trouble. It's not that you are over-used. It's that you are underused. That's a stranger, more depressing kind of stress."

WBT-127 was hurtling towards Dum Dum Airport with taxi-driver Harpal Singh at the wheel. "Each day is like hell," he says morosely, swerving to avoid a dog that had chosen the middle of the road to meditate. "Around 10 in the morning, you know what the traffic is. And after 10 at night, we have to deal with drunks who refuse to pay." At least a dozen times weekly, Harpal has minor collisions with something or somebody. At 5.30 every morning, he has to get to Bhowampore taxi stand to get his vehicle for the day. Even then it's not very definite. "I don't know



which is worse. The tension of working or the tension of not working."

American psychiatrists, Thomas H. Holmes and Richard Rahe, devised the Social Readjustment Scale which ranks 43 different types of stress. One wonders what the number would have been if those two gentlemen had lived in Calcutta. A cardiologist, Herbert Benson, found that his patients could survive the after-effects of all those types of stress by a simple exercise. They sit quietly in a comfortable position, keep their eyes closed and silently repeat the word 'one' over and over again for a period of 10 or 20 minutes. Then there is the well-known TM (transcendental meditation) of course.

Calcuttans seem to have devised their own safety valves. S.K. Dutta, an elderly officer working for an electrical goods company, has a regular evening habit. After work, on the way home, he parks his scooter by his favourite tea shop, and lets the day's tensions drain away with cups of lemon tea. That evening he was pondering over the price crisis. "I think this the biggest stress factor in many Calcuttan households. You are earning Rs 2000 and the price of an essential commodity is Rs 10 a kg. You are still earning Rs 2000 but the price of the same commodity has suddenly shot up to Rs 50."

Dutta's evening break seems part of the unique feature of Bengali culture—the adda. Men gather before work, during work, after work and talk, talk, talk and talk. It's the Bengali version of the coffee shop or the saloon. Now the point is

Anna a can a transfer and a said and the said and a said and

'We're like sheep. We just get driven in life like cattle. Do cattle feel stress?'... There's that basic recipe. Take a dollop of sarcasm, add a dash of humour, deep fry it in cynicism, garnish it with our spicy Indian fatalism and holler 'medicine's ready'. The antidote to handling stress in Calcutta. Like air corridors, there seems to be a survival corridor here. The rules in the corridor are a number of don'ts like—don't complain too much, don't push too hard for things to happen, anything can happen here, so don't be too surprised if on Monday morning you see a hippopotamus belting out Elvis Presley numbers on **Chowringhee Road**

whether the adda is the cause or the effect of stress.

The most common stress-management technique is to fume at the politicians and the bureaucrats, squarely blaming them for all this mess and end up feeling nice and righteously indignant. Like D. Sinha, an engineer with Union Carbide: "People in authority don't have the will to make the changes. Life in Madras or Bombay is not as stressful as life in Calcutta."

Feroze Alam and Shahzada are two young men who make a living selling sweaters by the pavement. They had been together in Delhi, Bombay and Hyderabad. "There are so many problems here in Calcutta which you can't find in any other place in India. Sometimes you feel you will go mad." So why didn't they leave Calcutta? "You must be joking. Calcutta is the best city in India!'

For four days, I lived in Calcutta accompanied by a worldly wealth amounting to five paise, believe it or not. The five paise remained because you can't buy anything with it. Now, the why and how of this experiment is another story, but the fact is that I didn't exactly drop into hunger faints. Obviously, my stress level should have been high enough to impress Messrs Holmes and Rahe. But not at any point during those four days did it seem like the end of the world. I probably couldn't have done it in any other city. There's something about Calcutta that gives as much if not more than it takes out of her people. That 'something' is more easily experienced than explained.

BARTERBANK

- Camera: I would like to exchange a Rolliflex camera in good condition for a Nikon camera or any other camera of equivalent value. Write to Rakesh Surana, 1 B.C. Road, Burdwan 713101.
- Coins, records and cassettes: I offer a one-penny British coin, and a few longplaying records and cassettes (Western) for anything of corresponding value. Write to A. Majumdar, C/o B.N. Ghosh, Sripur Charaktala, Boral 743505.
- Camera: I would like to exchange a 35 mm Himax camera (50 mm lens) along with Achiever 828 flashgun and three colour adopters in immaculate condition for a camera with a built-in flash in good condition or anything of corresponding value. Write to

- M.K. Majumdar, C/o B.N. Ghosh, Sripur Charaktala, Boral 743505.
- Camera: I offer a Hot Shot camera worth Rs 550 in good condition for a second-hand bicycle in good condition. Contact Subhobroto Dutta, 60/1A Kansari Para Road, Bhowanipore, Calcutta 700025.
- Foreign stamps: I offer 550 foreign stamps of countries all over the world along with a stamp album for two Trendy watches or a Titan Agura watch or a 35 mm camera or a two-in-one. Write to Ratnesh Singh, 16 Lala Babu Shive Road, Belurmath, Howrah, West Bengal.
- Books: I wish to exchange a Higher Secondary English Companion and Group A papers I and II (new) for anything of equivalent value. Contact

- Ashfaque Ahmed, 10/A Imdad Ali Lane, Calcutta 700016.
- Radio and books: I would like to exchange a Philips radio and the first 10 Penguin books in good condition for a taperecorder of any size or make. Contact Renuka Dasgupta, 38/ 1/1A Ramtanu Bose Lane, Calcutta 700006.
- Magazines: I offer about 300 issues of The Telegraph Colour Magazine (till date) for anything of equivalent value. Write to Sunil Madhogarhia, P-55 CIT Road, Scheme-VII M Kankurgachi, Calcutta 700054.
- Study material: I offer Brilliant Tutorials' MBBS course and YG File for IIT-JEE for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sougata Bandopadhyay, CD-24/3 V.K. Nagar, Durgapur-

- 713210.
- Radio and wallclock: I offer a GEC radio (made in England) with magic eye system and a German wallclock for anything of corresponding value. Write to Shambhu Nath Sarkar, 94 Linton Street, Calcutta 700014.
- Record player and records: I offer a HMV stereo record player and a few records for anything of corresponding value. Contact Subhasis Tarafdar, IOC Pipelines, Rajbandh, Burdwan 713212.
- Table-tennis rackets and stamps: I would like to exchange two foreign-made table-tennis rackets and 350 foreign and Indian stamps for a pair of binoculars. Write to Manoj Dey, C/o G.C. Dey, Baghna Roads, P.O. Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Pin: 757001.





(Nutan; died February 21, 1991)

DESTINATION GUINNESS

If Senbaga Vaira Vanchinak kuntrakkothaivalava Mira Vazuthi as he likes to be called does not sign his way into the Guinness Book of World Records with his long winded name he definitely intends to cycle his way into it with a world tour he set out on on Independence Day last year to break the existing record of an Englishman named John H Hathway

S V V M Vazuthi hails from the remote village of Melaperumazh i in Thanjavur district of Lamil Nadu and was a private tutor of higher secon dary students till he conceived his plan to join the ranks of the superlatives With MA degrees in Hindi Sanskrit and Tamil under his belt Vazuthi decided to see the practical side of things and promptly obtained a heavy duty licence (after the necessary road experience) to drive cars and trucks. But it seems the bicy cle was destined to be his best friend and this coupled with his unquelled spirit of adventure, put him on the road to fame, though he still has a long way to go to reach his goal Said Vazuthi My prunary

It should take
S.V.V.M. Vazuthi
two years to travel
100,000 kms on his
bicycle, but once
there he will have
broken a Briton's
record

ness Book by cycling a distance of 100,000 kms around the world in two years (The current record held by John Hathway is 81,300 kms in the same time) Other reasons for his wheel-wind tour is "to study the educational methods in other countries especially the developed ones, and their schemes for rural education, as well as the mode of living, culture and languages of the places I traverse"

Though his studies will have to be crash courses if he in tends to meet his deadline, Vazuthi seems undaunted by the tall order he has placed on himself Questioned about this, the tall, swarthy Vazuthi fiddled with the headband keeping his longer than-normal hair in place, hitched up his riding shorts and laughed "I covered 18,000 kms in the first four months. I have a year and eight months in hand. I guess I can make it." For a man who "confesses he has no vices, I guess he can

Vazuthi showed me his credentials—and he had quite a few of them His feat was being sponsored by the Lions Club, the Rotary Club the Jaycees and the Famil Nadu government Having set out from his home state he has travelled through Singapore and Malaysia where many of his community members re side He has also been to parts of Thailand but 'had to le ive in hurry as the people there were only eating meat, all kinds of it including reptiles and I am a vegetaman," he said embarrassedly

He, however, was all praise for the people of Malaysia, saying he was grateful to them for providing him free food and accommodation "I stayed mostly in temples there, and the Indian Association in Penang helped me with funds," he added Vazuthi was refused a visa to traverse China by road via Vietnam and Laos, and faced the same problem on the Burmese boilder, so he had to return to India Indian Airlines were very kind, he said, in offering to fly him and his bicycle to Calcutta

I met him having breakfast at a Madrasi restaurant on Chittaranjan Avenue, and promptly asked him about his daily routine during his travel "I start on an empty stomach around six or seven every morning" he said, without batting an eyelid, "I then stop for breakfast at about 9 30 am and set off again ' He dis mounts for a pure vegetarian lunch, preferably of rice or idlis and fruits, only to conitnue without rest till it gets too dark or unsafe to travel "I cover an average distance of 140 kms on a normal day " he claimed, tapping the milometer on his set of "wheels which records the mileage He then pulled out a folio containing a series of certificates filled in with the successive distances covered by him and endorsed by the local police station, Lions Club or some other authority This, he pointed out, was proof that he was actually riding the distance indicated

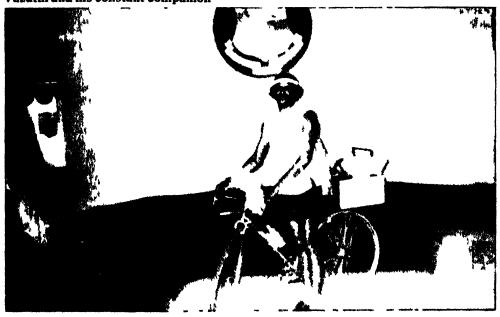
And Vazuthi's future plans? He couldn't think beyond his present target, saving he plan ned to ride down the East Coast to Madras, pick up funds, and then move on to Bombay, to Africa, Europe and the rest of the world, and "see you in two years' time"

Last I saw Vazuthi, he was pedalling down the roads, bent on his purpose, the big box on his carrier which contained his personal effects and emblazoned with the words, World Cycle Tour, bumping up and down S V V M Vazuthi, wherever you are now, see you a lakh kilometres and two years later!

Carlyle Chapman

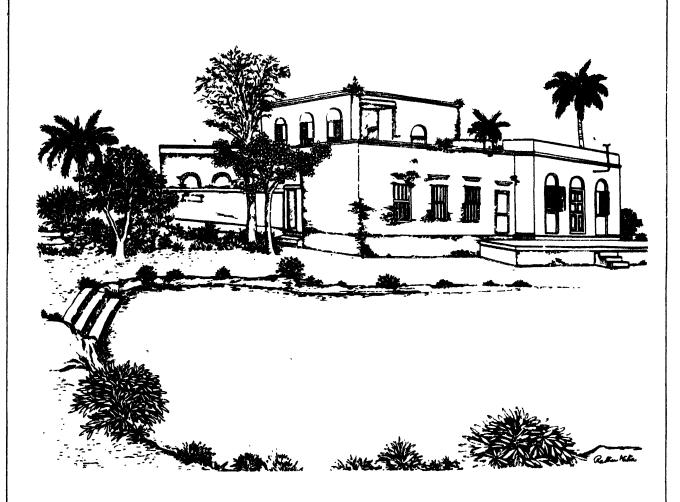
Vazuthi and his constant companion

purpose is to get into the Guin





MOHITLAL MAJUMDAR (1888-1952)



Noted Bengali poet and literary critic Mohitlal Majumdar was educated at Balagad in Hooghly district, West Bengal. He was greatly inspired by poet Debendranath Sen's works and the poetic temperament of his father, Nandalal. Motilal graduated from Vidyasagar College, Calcutta and taught at a school for some time. From 1935 till retirement he was a lecturer in Bengali at Dhaka University.

Mohitlal's poetic career

started with Bharati in which he contributed regularly since 1919. He drew upon Persian vocabulary and themes in some of his poems. In fact, he came to limelight through Svapan-Pasari (1922), his first important collection of poems. His poems are characterised by a bold, romantic temperament cast in a disciplined mould. His other poetical works that deserve mention are Aghorpanthi, Bismarani, Samaragaral, Hemantagodhuli

and Chhandachaturdasi.

As a literary critic Mohitlal offered commendable insight into the recesses of the creative mind. The form, style and structure of his writings have greatly enriched Bengali criticism; his notable volumes include Adhunik Bangla Sahitya (1936), Sahitya-Katha (1938), Sahitya-Bitan (1942) and Sri Madhusudan (1947).

The sketch above shows his residence at Barisha in south Calcutta.

RIES

March 21-April 20 Introspection, visits to hospitals and social

welfare centres, and focus on job, work and colleagues are de-finitely highlighted. Fromance will be enough to let you know that you have a heart. The accent is also on finance and work will consume you. Visits and trips are more than a sojourn. You may be slightly below the weather as others demand too much from you.

AURUS

April 21-May 20 The main trends of the week are romance, laughter, a wee bit of speculation, children, hobbies and some polish on the home front. March 5 and 6 are ideal for romance. A lucky break or a contract helps you in finance; deals can be closed and new ventures started. Plenty of contacts and correspondence will require you

to travel.

EMINI

May 21-June 20 Both the home and outside world clamour for your time and talent, and that could prove a bit too much unless you work and act to a tight schedule. Finance prom-

ises good returns and the launch of a new enterprise. Romance will be available for the eligible. Health pressures may tell on you but you will be able to carry through.

ANCER

June 21-July 20 You are definitely on a better wicket this

week. In romance, you will sing a merry note. In financial matters. it is time to expand and/or start a new business and take on more responsibilities. Long-distance connections and calls may compel you to undertake a journey. A get-together is on the cards. Venus sextiles Mars ensures better health. Pleasant changes in the home and family are foreseen.

July 21---August 21 Finances, including

buying, selling, fund-ing, distributing, raising of loans and formation of public trusts, take top priority. Take extra health care. In romance, a wild fling is not ruled out. A shift or transfer or hectic commuting is not ruled out either. Improvements in the home are possible and this trend continues till May



















IBRA

Sept 23-Oct 22 Expenses, introspection and health care

are the week's highlights. The week is also a job-oriented one. Romance will be passionate but not permanent. A new line of activity is probable in finance. Traders do well. The next fortnight favours travel. A certain discomfort and uneasiness are foretold unless you take additional health precautions. Reconstruction, land and site are the main trends on the domestic front



APRICORN

CORPIO

friendship, gains, gla

confidence that enables you to get things done. You will jum

the rainbow of romance. Social ise, have a friendly approact

and watch the money pour inti-

your pocket. Travel only if absc lutely necessary as action a home keeps you happily occupied. Your health shows

AGITTARIUS

Home and property

influences predomin

Nov 23--- Dec 20

ate till March 21. A chop and

change in your work is definitely foretold. Romance may not bi absolutely trouble-free. /

chance to make a fast buck

could land you in a legal battle. I home away from home is possi

ble. Chances of operations and

accidents are there.

marked improvement.

Oct 23-Nov 22

The main trends an

Dec 21-Jan 19 Revival of hope and joy, creativity at white heat, hobbies, news, new ideas messages and beneficial out come are the week's salient fea tures. In romance, your hear thrums and all is right with the world. A better control and inflov of finances are ensured. It

travel, both communications and



news are fated.

QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18 The accent this wee is on loans, funds

passion, mortgage, shifts, trans fers and immigration. Buying and selling are of crucial significance Romance will be enough to keep you interested. Travel only there is a major shift or move Health hassles will be there, bu you do recover.



ISCES

Feb 19-March 20 Marriage, alliance collaborations and

thurst in work and play are thhighlights of the week. In f nance, open out your shoulder and score away to glory. Gener al health improvement is fore seen. Invitations, interviews conferences and visits may re quire you to travel. The hom calls for touches of beauty an adomment, and even a complet overhaul is not ruled out a Venus (beauty) sextiles Mar (overhauling).

BIRTHDAYS

IRGO

utmost importance. Trips, com-

munications, home and kids also

come under the special astro

survey. Romance will be hectic

and it could result in marriage.

Assignments, commitments and

progress make a happy trio for

you in finance. Communications

and contacts may impel a trip.

Stomach ailments and a virus

fever are the two health snags. The home and family are high-

lighted in the next two weeks.

August 22-Sept 22

Personal rela-

tionships are of

March 3

leroury sextile Uranus: A newsy bithysar. You will accomplish much but health remains suspect. A job-hop is probable. June has happy surprises for you.

March 4

Bun sextle Uranus: You show plenty of promise and it is up to you to make it in terms of per-formance and results. A low haseles on the entotional level are probable. If on a journey, take care of the details or you will come unstuck. Metters will take place with lightning audderiness.

March 5

Surs trine-Moon: If you are not compleased and fizzy the world will be pour oyster: Fleach out to people, have a master plan and be adaptable, and you will have

agination guide you, but that does not mean you can afford to be lazy and negligent. Use all possible means to grab what you

March 7

Sun sextile Saturn: Given grit and determination, an ideal Saturn placing takes you right to the top. Many of you will be burn-ing with ambition to succeed. A bit of romance and socialising too for good measure as there is a positive Jupiterian influence:

ierch 8

Visitus aestile Mars: Venus (Deauty and obridor) in good placing with Mars (energy and passion) ansures aggression and chains. Expect a new position of nower. Lest to violate actions your resigns amount. Site and opinion passions by the control of the control o

CURRY CURRY □ Ranjit Rai



Cachumber Raita

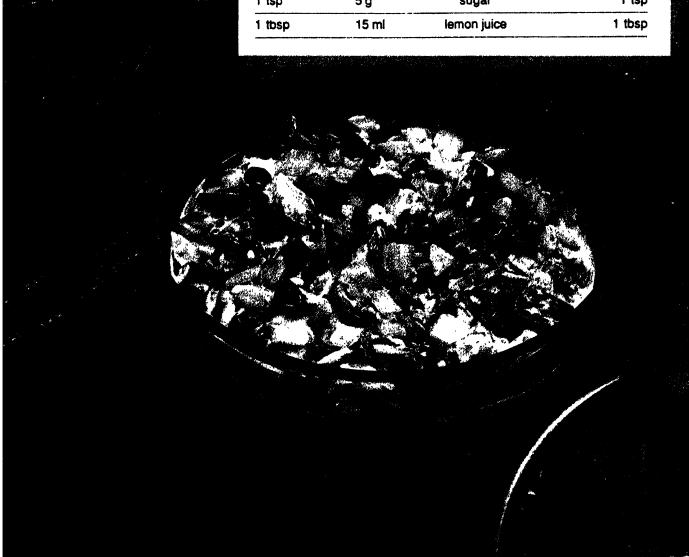
This contains onions, tomatocs, cucumbers and fresh green and red chillies.

Method

Cream yoghurt in a blender along with salt, sugar and lemon juice for 20-30 seconds. Transfer to a serving dish and add all the ingredients. Chill before serving.

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India

British	Metric	Ingredients	American
1½ oz (½ cup)	40 g	onions, diced	½ cup
11 oz (½ cup)	25 g	tomatoes, diced	1 cup
1 oz (½ cup)	25 g	cucumber, diced	1 cup
2 tbsps	12 g	fresh green & red chillies, scissor-cut	2 tbsps
21 oz (3½ cups)	575 g	yoghurt	23 cups
1 tsp	5 g	salt	1 tsp
1 tsp	5 g	sugar	1 tsp
1 tbsp	15 ml	lemon juice	1 tbsp



V O I C E O F A

New Generation



Anuradha Paudwal: Supercassette Singer

The Mangeshkar Monopoly is over And whatever it was that went with it it signified not just the dominance of Lata Mangeshkar—and nothing could have been better than that—but also her contemporaries like Mohd Rafi, Asha Bhosle, Kishore Kumar, Mukesh and so on, the stonewalling of newcomers It also signified another thing if despite their dominance and "throttling" of new voices, people never got fed up of the same old playback singers reeling off song after

There is suddenly a rash of playback singers. But in this era of instant music, will their impact also be transient?

song (at a time when at least half a dozen numbers per film was mandatory), then there must have been something in them of voices

For some years now it has been the Paudwal Principle that has been prevalent in film music—and of course signifying all that goes with it Anyone with a gullet can become a singer today: assembly-line voices, canned music, doggerel for lyrics and technological advantages combined with hardsell The result is: Ek, do,



The Oye oye team: Amit Kumar. Viju Shah and Sapna Mukherjee

teen...it's a hit! Oye, oye, what have things come to.

This is not to say that our new generation monopolisers (or aspirants to that label) are bad. After all, if their songs are selling, and even taking the mediocre films piggyback to the banks, they must be good. But, that's just it: pat arguments do not a singer make. When a young man sang Man tarpat Hari darshan ko aaj (Baiju Bawra), you immediately knew that he was very soon going to be a Mohd Rafi. When you heard Chand chhupa aur taare doobe (Sohni Mahiwal), you were sure you had Mahendra Kapoor coming up. Was there any doubt about who the pig-tailed singer of Hawa mein udta jaaye (Barsaat) would grow up to be?

By the same count, where is that somebody called Sulakshana Pandit who had more Max Factor on her face than nectar in her throat? Which, again, is not to say that Sulu Baby couldn't sing to save her life, but mediocrity finds its own level. And how many days have passed since a fellow called Jolly Mukheriee belted out that chartbuster title song from Chandni? Can someone get us his address, please, he isn't even listed in the telephone directory. He was as good as any Kumar Shanu (Aashiqui) or Udit Narayan (Dil), going great guns so far, but do they have that something that Kishore Kumar or Manna Dey or Hemant Kumar had? Will they go that far or will another dime-a-dozen Jolly Jhumritalaiyawalas take over in the next few films? These are days of tinsel tiaras and rolling trophies. All so transient. And everyone is available for a song.

Says Kalyanji, spokesman of the veteran Kalyanji-Anandji duo: "Most of them have kuchh na kuchh talent. There is something in their voice, some quality. It is not that just about anyone can enter the line. If they don't have some quality at least, they just don't last." If the part music director of a recent musical hit, Tridev, sounds apologetic, he can be for-

Sudesh Bhosle: Mimic turned singer

given. Kalyanji-Anandji almost swore by Lata, Mukesh and Kishore, and couldn't do much for their talented back-up younger brother, Babla, or his ear-splitting singer-girl friend, Kanchan, despite some breaks. Something very similar to what happened to Sharda of Shankar-Jaikishan fame. She got all the breaks that a singer could dream of, but Sharda doesn't live here anymore, does she?

Kalyanji-Anandji tried to train many raw singers, Sadhana Sargam and Alka Yagnik

among them, but couldn't do pretty much, and the times overtook them. too. If Tridev kind of brought them back, it's still a secret; that film is best known for Kalyanji's son, Viju Shah, who came up with that Ove ove ditty giving a shot in the arm to Amit Kumar, one of the few compleat singers we have today, and threw up new find Sapna Mukherjee (who had earlier done K-A's Jaanbaz).

Anand-Milind, the top-of-the-heap sons of late music director Chitragupt, currently basking in the glory of *Qavamat Se Qayamat Tak* and *Dil*, were however less defensive. "The new singers are doing well, though some of them don't have the originality of the earlier ones." They quickly add a plus point though. "But they are cooperative and punctual."

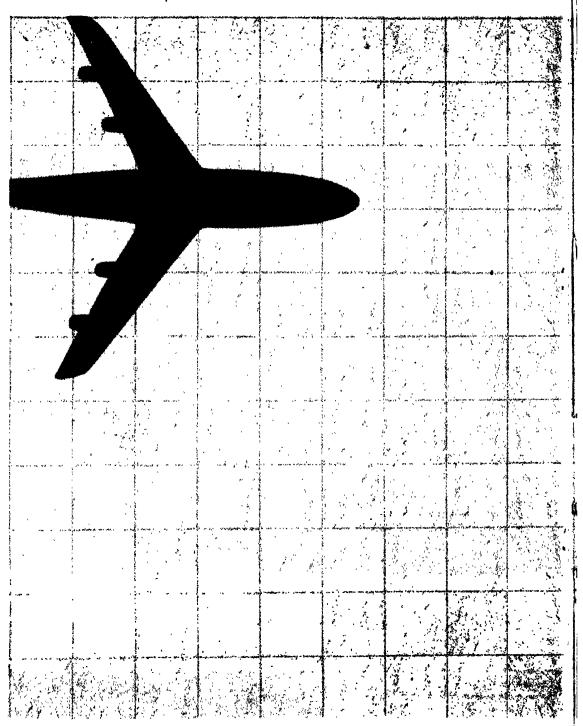
What of the singers themselves? Anuradha Paudwal, the queen bee, or should we say Supercassette Singer, is talented no doubt even if she is a bit of a Lata clone, down to the monopoly business. But the cassette boom, or more precisely the Gul shan Kumar takeover of the film music industry, made her a name to reckon with and with her recent Aashiqui and Dil the Paudwal Principle has come into play.

There is no question of "filling the slot" of Lata, as she protests, because "Lata is Lata just as Noorjehan was Noorjehan". Adds Anuradha: "I don't know what people mean by filling her slot. This is not a sabzi bazaar". She points out that times have changed and Lata came at a time "when film music was at its peak, now people can listen to the music without seeing the film." She cites the example of Gulshan Kumar's Jeena Teri Gali Mein which was



Cover: Anuradha Paudwal and Amit Kumar by Durgaprasad; Udit Narayan by Tapas K. Dey

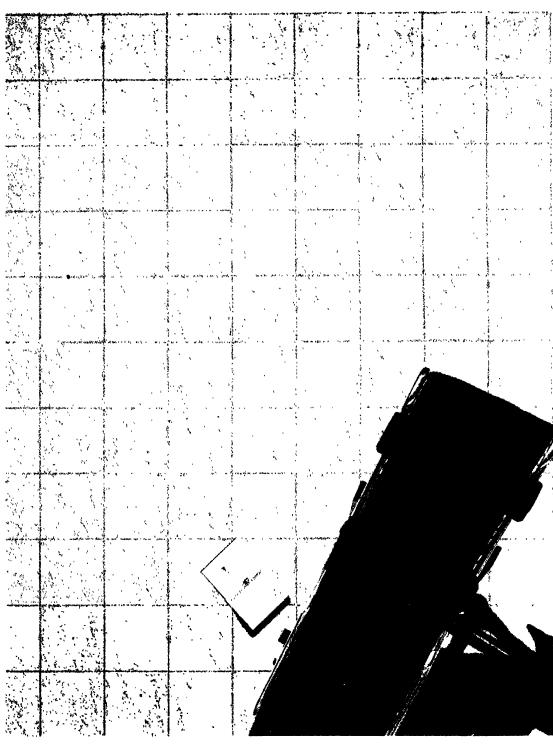
Look! A room with a whew!



Imagine. The magic of pure marble. Captured in the finest of ceramic tiles ◆ That's Metaphors from Spartek. Created

exclusively for beautiful homes. Lay it on your existing floor. Tile on tile with special Spartek-Roff adhesive • And observe with

quiet satisfac tranforms your " (whistling admire)



◆ As Metaphors eserved visitors into hew, whoopie!!"

METAPHORS



Anything ... just anything can hupper

released two years ago. "I don't know how many people have seen the film or video, but they have heard the cassette."

nother singer who justifies her posi-Ation today is Kavita Krishnamurthy: she is versatile, characteristic, has great range and depth and, most important, she is no one's clone. Kavita took some time to get noticed, but came back with a voice matured perfectly. Her first hit song, Tum se mil kar, from Pyar Jhukta Nahin was as different from Hawa hawaii (Mr India) as chalk from cheesecake. The versatility shows in the title song of Karma and the latest Jumma chooma de de (Hum), too. Says Kavita smugly, "I have a place in the playback scene. I am not in the rat race.' If she shows any immaturity, it is in lines like these, not in the lines she sings so far.

Her *lumma* partner, Sudesh Bhosle, being touted as the Voice of Amitabh Bachchan ever since the song began blaring from the rooftops, doesn't come as a surprise though. He is a mimic, in fact, and it is anyone's guess how long mimics turned singers can last. Of course, fortu-

Udit Narayan: Papa, here I come!

nately for him, music runs in the family and it was Asha Bhosle who took a liking for him and introduced him to people who matter. *Zalzala*, his first film, came in 1987; four years later, it seems he has got a career in playback singing going. So far, so good. Sudesh admits, like most of the

others do, that this generation of singers "just cannot be compared to the earlier singers". While everyone had more time on their hands to work out something good earlier, says Sudesh, "today, a song can be recorded in a matter of five minutes". The 'instant' syndrome all over again, the phataphat world.

No one proves this syndrome better than Sapna Mukherjee whose style of singing is so superficial that a wag called it "surfing as opposed to deep-sea diving" of the earlier singers. You get plenty of splash now, and previously playback singing wasn't a spectator sport. But Sapna is one of those who scores a hit every now and then and stays in the running. An old hand in the film music industry, struggling to describe her, says, "Sapna can sing that disco type of song well. She is also very lucky. Every year she manages one hit." After Feroz Khan gave her the break in Jaanbaz, she did a star turn in Tridev, and has some important films up her designer sleeve. "I want people to say I have my own style of singing," says Sapna, "and not something that is a copy." She was of course making bold to hit out at the clones in the business, "some of whom have made a success out of copying voices of

the greats".

One of the popular clones (of Rafi) was Mohd Aziz, who has since then left the other carbon copies of the master, Shabbir Kumar and Anwar in particular, far behind in the race for the rainbow's end. It was Amitabh Bachchan again whose luck he rode (very much like Sudesh Bhosle now); Annu Malik gave Aziz his big break in Mard after another music director, Usha Khanna, prevailed upon Malik to try him

"I know some people will dub me a clone but I choose to say something here." says Aziz. "To make a mark one needs to sing like one of the greats. People's ears are so attuned to the greats that if all of a sudden a newcomer sings originally, the listeners might 'ban' him! If you notice carefully, Lataji tried to sing like Noor jehan in the earlier stage of her life, later she developed into the model singer Lata Mangeshkar."

Kumar Shanu is another clone, this one of Kishore Kumar. Already preening and strutting about after the *Aashiqui* success, Shanu says in his star-like manner: "I was dubbed a Kishore clone early in my career. I knew it would not be easy to make it. Most of the music directors refused to give me a chance. No one would even try me out." Today, even though he is riding high with the banner of Kishore Kumar, he is in great demand. *Aashuqui* and all that.

For someone who was a Lata clone, but tried to be different, Alka Yagnik did meet with some success in that horrendous number, Mere angane mein (Laawaris),

Mohd Aziz: Flattering by imitation





but many "hits" later, met with the Paudwal Principle and saw the senior singer replace her in the final version of a Dil song! In between, you see, she had done an Ek, do, teen (Tezaab) and already she talks condescendingly of "not (being) part of the rat race".

Talking of clones, Vijay Benedict who hit upon a chartbuster in *Disco Dancer* and *Kasam Paide Karne Wale Ki* by replacing Kishore Kumar at the 11th hour in B. Subhash's former film, on the insistence of Bappi Lahiri, says: "These clones are not going to last long. I am proud of my originality. I may not be as successful right



Alka Yagnik: What number now?

now, but my expiry date will be beyond theirs."

Bappi Lahırı, who is the new generation music director, himself agrees that "Lata and Asha have an unrivalled place, a quality that the new lot can never match". And so does Raamlaxman, the man who languished for a while before churning out a record breaker last year in Maine Pyar Kiya (incidentally with oldies like Lata and S.P. Balasubramaniam being lipped by the latest teenyboppers, Bhagyashree and Salman Khan). "There are a lot of new singers," says he, "but there are certain melodies only Lata and Asha can sing."

Anil Grover with Lekha Rattanani Robin Roy and Susmita Mukherjee

7 DAYS

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

- Daddy: Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 274259)--4 shows.
- · Anupam Kher plays the title role of an alcoholic father in this Mahesh Bhatt film. Also starring are Pooja Bhatt, Manohar Singh, Soni Razdan, Neena Gupta and Avtar Gill. The music is by Rajesh Roshan.
- Farishtay: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road;



Govinda and Shilpa Shirodkar in Hum

277273), Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue; 390762), Uttara (Bidhan Saranı; 552200), Khanna (APC Road; 552932), Chhava (APC Road; 351382). Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Indira (In-

Richard Gere and Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman

dra Roy-Road; 471757), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440), Madhuban (Regent Park).

A film by Anil Sharma, starring Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Sridevi, Rajnikant, Jaya Prada. Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Sadashiv Amrapurkar. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• Hum: Orient (Bentinck Street. 281917), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road;

Directed by Mukul S. Anand. the film stars megastar Amitabh Bachchan along with Rajnikant, Govinda, Kimi Katkar, Deepa Sahi, Shilpa Shirodkar, Danny Denzongpa, Anupam Kher, Romesh Sharma, Annu Kapoor, Shammi and Kader Khan. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Patthar Ke Phool: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kıdwai Road; 242266), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Jagat (APC Road; 365108), Ragini (Beliaghata Main Road; 363264).

A love story, starring Salman Khan and debutante Raveena Tandon. The film is directed by Anant Balani and the music is by Ram Laxman.

• Pyar Ka Devta: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138)-4 shows.

Directed by K Bapaiah and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the chief attractions of this film are Mithun Chakraborty, Madhuri Dixit, Rupa Ganguly, Shaktı Kapoor, Moushum Chatterjee and Kader Khan.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664) -4 shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Chandni play the lead. Others costarring are new-find Kanchan, Puneet Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Danny and Pran. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh-Kishor.

• Saugandh: Ehte (S.N. Banerice Road; 241383)- 4 shows.

A film by Raj Sippy, starring Raakhee, Akshay Kumar, Shantipriya, Mukesh Khanna, Pankaj Dheer and Rupa Ganguly. The music is by Anand Milind.

Bengali Films

• Kagajer Nauko: Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road: 271282), Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080)—3 shows.

Directed by Sekhar Sarkar and with music by Chandan Roychoudhury, the cast includes Anil Chatterjee, Manoj Mitra, Jayasree Sen, Dilip Roy, Piyali Chatterjee, Bimal Dev, Kalyani Adhikari and Pradip Ghosh.

• Sadharan Meye (A): Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567)-

2.30, 5.30, 8.15.

Tapas Paul, Debashree Roy, Rupa Ganguly, Kali Banerjee, Madhabi Mukherjee, Huma Khan, Sahila Chadda and Swarup Dutta are the chief attractions. The film is directed by Samit Bhanja and the music is by Kanu Bhattacharya.

Special Events

3 March onwards: 3 pm - 7 pm

An exhibition of Shuvaprasan na's paintings and drawings, till March 10

At Artage (6/1A Palm Avenue, 473284/290697)

3-5 March

An exhibition of Ram Kumar's recent drawings and paintings

At Chitrakoot Art Gallery (55 Gariahat Road (755314)

3-8 March: 3 pm - 8 pm An exhibition of paintings by Five Painters in the North Gallery At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 284302) 3 March: 7 pm

Rays Cultural Society presents Guzishta (scripted by Gulzar), featuring Bisanillah Khan, Anjiad Ali Khan, Zakii Hussain, Birju

Maharaj and Jagut Singh At Agri Horticultural Gardens (Alipore Road)

4 & 5 March: 6 pm

To mark the golden jubilee of Suchitra Mitra's singing career, Sarathi presents two evenings of songs, recitation, play reading and dance, featuring Santidev Ghish, Kanika Bandopadhyay, Suchitra Mitra, Subinoy Roy, Dwijen Mukheriee, Sumitra Sen, Niren dianath Chakraborty, Dibyendu Palit Arghya Sen, Purba Dani, Bani Tagore, Siinanda Mukheriee, Partha and Gouri Ghosh, Sarmistha Chalterjee, Rekha Maitra and others on 4th, and Suchitra Mitra.

Dhuen Bose, Srikumai Chatter jee, Pramita Mullick, Roma Mandal, Bhaswati Mukherjee, Purba Dani, Pradip Ghosh, Niladtisekhai Bose, Bratati Banerjee, Soumitra Mitra, Partha Mukherjee and documentary on Suchitra Mitra will be screened.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road, 289978)

3 March: 7 pm

Rangakarmee presents its latest Hindi play, Vama (The Women) comprising three short plays by Dariofo-Franca Rame and Bertolt Brecht and adapted ind translated in Hindi by Usha Gangu li Directed by Bibhas Chakrabor ty the play stars Usha Ganguli with Om Pareek as the co actor Lights Tapas Sen Costume design Sohag Sen

At Sisir Mancha (1 AJC Bose Road)

7 March: 6 pm

Youth Guild, Draupadi and the cultural department of the USSR consulate general in Calcutta present an Odissi dance recital by Sikata Mohanty

At Gorky Sadan (3 Gorky Terrace 472791/5407)

7 March: 6.30 pm

Nandikar will stage Sankhapurei Sukanya directed by Rudraprasad Sengupta

At Academy of Fine Arts 8 March, 6.30 pm

Padatik Music Circle presents a sitar recital by Prof Subroto Roychowdhury

At Padatik Little Theatre (6/7 AJC Bosc Road, 446087)

9 March: 5.30 pm

A seminar on 'Study of Folk Theatre in Western Region of India', organised by Bharat

At Bula Academy (108-109 Southern Avenue, 467843/9802)

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230 Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-

Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokvo: Arr (5) Al-306 at 1915 Dep (5) Al-306 at 2020

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) Al-309 at 1910, Dep (6) Al-309 at 2025 London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (7)

Ai-132/1328 at 1230
* Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr

(4) SU-537 at 1625
* Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow.
Dep (4) SU-538 at 1825

* Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanoi: Arr (2) SU-541 at 0755, Dep (2) SU-541 at 0905 * Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi

* Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi Tashkent-Moscow. Arr (2) SU-542 at 1755, Dep (2) SU-542 at 1905

Calcutta-Amman: Dep (5) RJ-185 at 0630

Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4) RJ-184 at 0800

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4) SQ-420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta. Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-420 at 1210

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-731 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-732 at 1500, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-747 at 1600, Dep (1, 5) RA-214 at 1530

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-748 at 1930 Arr (1, 5) HA-213 at 1430

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (3, 6) IC-723 at 1340, Dep (daily) BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (3, 6) IC 724 at 1600, Arr (delly) BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1950

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2 5) BG-697 at 1910

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (2) KB-106 at 0900, Arr (2) KB 105 at 0800

Domestic

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230 Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Al-1328

Deihi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Al-132 et 1220

Indian Airlines www.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay. Dep (daily) IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850, Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-765 at 1700, Arr (daily) IC-766 at 2210

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-771 at 0610, Arr (daily) IC-772 at 1200

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1545

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 0905

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-729 at 0800, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1630, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-730 at 1100

Calcutts-Agartals: Dep (daily) IC-743 at 1330, Dep (3, 5, 6, 7)

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266869, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

IC-241 at 0700, Dep (1 2, 4) IC-241 at 0700, Arr (daily) IC-744 at 1600, Arr (3 5, 6 7) IC-242 at 1350, Arr (1 2, 4) IC-242 at 0900 Calcutta-Port Biair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0530, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Port Blair. Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0530, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1000

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 1400, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1730

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily) IC-221 at 1100, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1320

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 7) IC-213 at 0600, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 7) IC-213 at 0955

Calcutta-Sitchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 1050 Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1530

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-269 at 1650 Arr (1, 2 4, 7) IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3 5, 6) IC-269 at 1650, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-270 at 2040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-219 at 0840, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-220 at 1320 Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2 7) IC-277 at 1745, Arr (1, 2, 7) IC-278 at 2215

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-542 at 0700, Arr (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-541 at 0915 Calcutta-Imphal: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-259 at 1330, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-260 at 1610

Vayadoot waterment

Calcutta-Agartala-Imphal: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-727 at 0530, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-728 at 1120

Calcutta-Agartala-Silcher: Dep (7) PF-729A at 0550, Arr (7) PF-730A at 1050

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep (1 3, 5, 7) PF-701 at 1140 Arr (1 3, 5, 7) PF-702 at 1615

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kallashahar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-729 at 0550, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF 730 at 1040

Calcutta-Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar-Calcutta: Dep (2 4 6) PF-701 at 1100, Arr (2 4 6) PF-702 at 1715

Calcutta-Rourkela: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF 715 at 0600, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-716 at 0855

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep (2, 6) PF-709 at 0815, Arr (2, 6) PF-710 at 1840

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep (4) PF-709 at 0815 Arr (4) PF-710 at 1750

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep (7) PF-709 at 0600, Arr (7) PF-710 at 1705

Calcutta-Alzawi-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep (1 3, 5, 7) PF-

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta

PF-705 at 0915; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-706 at 1620. Caloutts-Agartala: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729A at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730A at 1410.

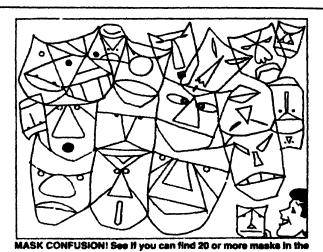
Calcutta-Alzawi-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705 at 0910 and PF-729B at 1310; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706 at 1255 and PF-730B at 1655. Calcutta-Jamahedpur-Ranchi-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0550; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1115. Calcutta-Jamahedpur: Dep. (2,

4, 6): PF- 717 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0745.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-707 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

				Tra	ins				
Dep	arture	EASTERN RAILWAY	Arr	ivel	Dep	erture	SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY	Arri	ivel .
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn			Howrah		
2311	19-00	Dolhi-Kalka Mail	8-30	2312	Up	Time		Time	Dn
3005	19-20	Amritear Mail	8-05	3006	6003 8002	20-40	Madras Mail Bombey Mail via Nagpur	7-00 8-00	6004 8001
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2001	9 -10	press via Gaya-Varanasi	10-00	2302	8034	20-20	Ahmedabed Express	5-05	8033
l		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
i		Arr-Wed. Fri. & Sun.			2841	14-30	Coromandei (Madras) Ex-	11-50	2842
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304			press		
1		press via Patna			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express	13-45	26 12
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1		Sun.			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatla Express	6-05	8016
1		Arr-Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. &			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8008
		Sun.		40-4	8409	19-35	Jegenneth (Puri) Express Via	7-45	8410
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jemmu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkiy	11-10	2374	2821	5-55	Naraj Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) E x-	21-20	2822
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JUNIOR WHIRL D Hal Kaufman



drawing above. Turn page every which way to find them.

• DROP-INSI Drop first letter of each capitalized word to fill blank 1. The SOIL held — 2. Let's BORE for — 3. The CHAIR is filled with — 4. The SAMPLE is — Now, try making up some



BURIED POETS SOCIETY!

Names of British poets Gray, Moore, Byron, Pope, Dryden, Gay, Keats and Hemans appear among consecutive letters of this vintage verse.

The sun is derting rays of gold
Upon the moor, enchanting

spot, Whose purple heights by Ronald loved.

Up open to his shapherd cot. And sundry denizens of air, Are flying, aye each to his nest; And eager make at such an hour

All haste to reach the mansions

Can you find them?

e 21 SKIDDOO! Four shaded numbers in the L-shaped cluster below total 21. Quickly-- in two minutes or leas—see if you can find at least four more L-shaped foursomes totalling 21 similarly.

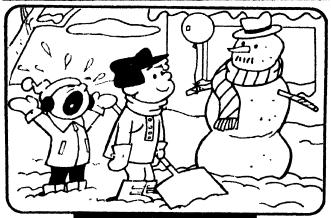
L's may be in any position, short side up, down, left or right.

Remember, you are asked to find just four answers.

Four of a number of pussibilities 5754 7392 7293, 7635, etc.

5/2			5	9
6	5	2	7	4
7	4	9	3	5
3	7	5	6	7
9	2	7	7	4

HOCUS-FOCUS

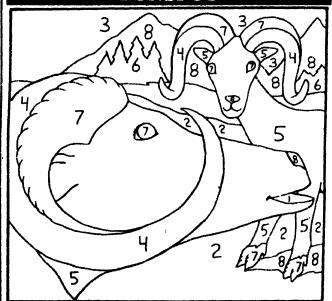




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences: 1. Cloud le amaller. S. Button strip le miserno. 3 Shovël le amaller di Battoon le miseing, 5. Scart le shorter. 6. Het le amaller

FUNSPOT



HEADS UP! Easy does it, or these bighorn sheep will be off to higher places. Colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Lt. gray. 6—Dk. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

TRANSFER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points. 'tuel 'seg: seeinfour elginood



which Greek gods were the ivy and the laurel associated," asks Chandan Bagchi, Calcutta, who also gives the answers "Bacchus and Apollo, respectively"

Here are more details The evergreen my was sacred to Bacchus, and it used to be planted outside a tavern to indicate that wine was available within An earlier name for Bacchus or Dionysus may have been Kissos or Cissos, the ancient name for ivy and the deity is often portrayed wearing an ivy wreath in one legend, Kissos is the name of a nymph who danced at a Dionysian festival with such zest and abandon that she collapsed and expired at the feet of the god who, in his grief and melancholy changed her into the lively and vigorous ivy As a symbol of fidelity, a wreath of ivy was formally presented to a newly married couple at Greek weddings, its twining properties symbolised the union of the couple

Ivy has long had a mournful and magical context, qualities that were combined in the convictions of the priests of Jupiter, who believed that contact with ivy could put them into prophetic trances. The healing properties of ivy include its reputation for curing drunkenness, preventing intoxica-



11th Question: What unusual "pollution tax" was recently imposed in indonesia? (Sushii Poddar, 122A Southern Avenue, Calcutta 700029)

Ans: A tax @ \$106 a month on every prostitute in Indonesia's East Timor Province by the local authorities to discourage the flesh market which is 'polluting' the local society

tion, easing corns, skin rashes and a running nose. even ivywood was thought to be advantageous when used for drinking vessels although ivy is in fact poisonous, and it is probably this which caused ivy to be regarded as a magic plant and its reputation as a protection against evil, as, indeed, it was long before Christmas was celebrated with ivy as a decoration, it could also account for stones of worshippers of Bacchus chewing ivy leaves to cause a state of frenzy, and perhaps also for its reputation as an aid to inspiration

The laurel was sacred to Apollo because Daphne, whom he was pursuing changed into a laurel tree (according to Ovid), it is a favourite tree for making wreaths for athletic victors, and those who triumph in other fields, and the Greeks regarded the laurel as having oracular powers, while the leaves either chewed or

inhaled as smoke were believed to assist inspiration. At Delphi a seer would hold a laurel bough, and those seeking to learn what the fu ture held often wore a sprig of laurel Occultists burnt laurel for its power during incantations and sometimes saw omens in the way laurel crackled and burnt Laurel beneath the pillow at night is said to cause the sleeper to dream of the future Laurel was also regarded as protec tive against bad spirits and against sorcery, and the Greeks not only carried it ab out with them for this purpose, but also fixed it over their houses to keep away ghosts More recently it was believed to act as a barrier against witchcraft and its place in the equipment of the sorcerer and white witch is secure so long as supersti tion lives

Anand A Alsisaria writes from Jamtara

'The Youth Relief Society

organised a subdivisional level quiz in which 13 teams took part. In the final we saw Krishnanand Nannolia at his best as the quizmaster His witty jokes, perfect control over the whole programme and self-confidence made the quiz a grand success A highly involved audience was witness to this closely fought quiz Team A of JBC High School comprising Niral Singh and Anand Singh, finally emerged winners and were awarded the SDM Jamtara Shield The success of this first ever programme of its kind at Jamtara and the positive af ter effect can be taken as a lesson by similar other cen tres as a means to enhance awareness among students and other people

A quiz report from Burdwan

Belut Evergreen Association of Burdwan organised a Superquiz as part of its annual programme Altogether eight teams turned up mostly college students with three persons per team Eventually the team of Kaushik Biswas, Su jata Chakraborty and Sambhu Pal edged out the others to clinch the title The quiz was ably conducted by Ramen Roy Sheikh Abdur Rab and Sabyasachi Dev A sensible audience provided stimulus to the teams

QUESTIONS

1) Who is the only Beingindeant to be declared Man, of the Mildon in One-Day international orlohet? (Kaushik Kumer Mag, Fusipity 2) 2) in war terminology what is "pollational damage"? (Rupen Beitstriee, Nonechanderpulsur) 3) Mow many legs does a talkerd table have? (Milego Kumer Sings, Petrets AS) & Besides being fish what other unusual physical feathms do fish fish have? Kharagpur)

B) Name the only animal which has four knees. (Suman Dias, Kalyani 35)

B) Who was import as the Robin Hood of Scotland? (Prabel Kumar Piskehit, Calcutta 75)

7) Which is the light hedian

Calculte 75)
7) Which is the first inclinic university to tecnion a design pourse in hole vitenagement and calculation appropriation (Ancienary) inches coloring technology? (Ancienary) in Chapter Ch

was released in September 1984. Why? (Arindam Dev, Kelyani 35)

9) Who played the role of guru of the dancer-hero (Gopi Krishna) in Jhanak Jhanak Payal Sauje? (Subir Kumer Das, Guwahati 11)

10) in theatre slang, what is a vampire? (Krishna Mphila, Calcutta 7)

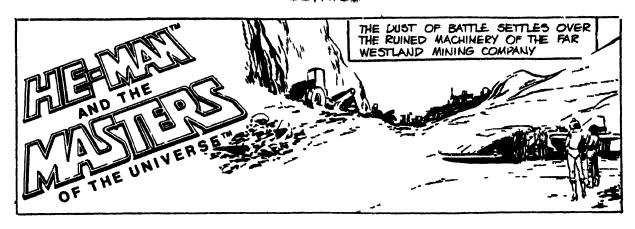
ANSWERS

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COMICS











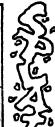




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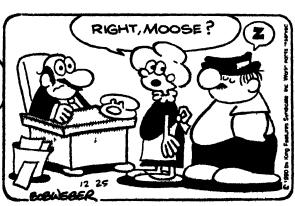


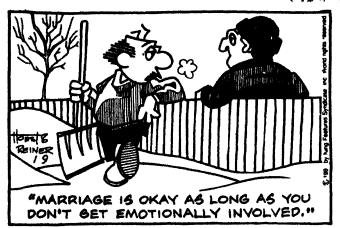


















GARFIELD By Jim Dovls









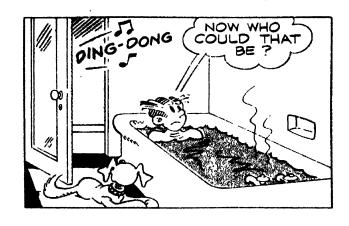






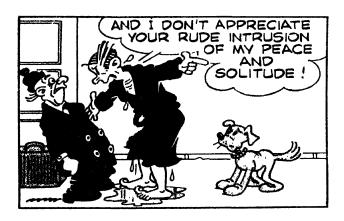


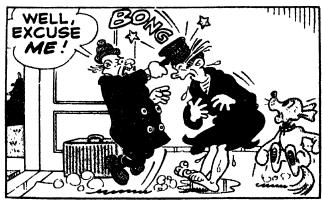


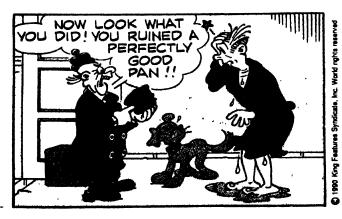












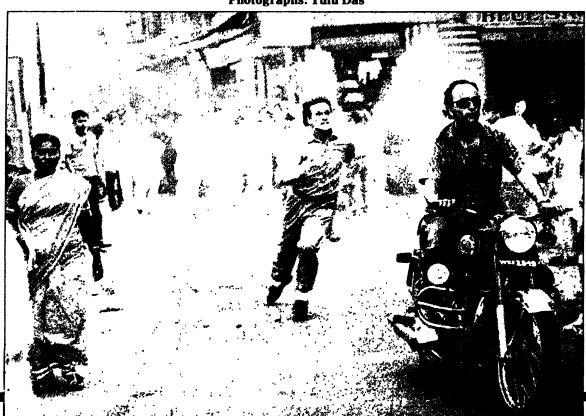


IN THE NEWS



Roland Joffe's film, *The City of Joy*, rolls on amidst controversy and colour. Here are two shots of Patrick Swayze, the star of *Dirty Dancing* and *Ghosts*, on Sudder Street

Photographs: Tulu Das



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That same lice comb, every single day. It's agony for your little daughter. It causes scalp abrasions, weakens the roots

of her hair.

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But while you look at all the things that should go right, it makes good business sense to consider what could go wrong. A riot that affects your office. A fire in the warehouse. A damaged consignment. An accident in the plant.

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POST MORTEM

Dressing Down

Within a space of two months, you took the trouble of highlighting the cause of those who spend extravagantly on clothes. 'Dressing Up in Disney' (October 21) and "Trendsetters-'(December 9) speak about the vanity and exhibitionism we Indians have. Most of our countrymen are so

selves and the rich. Rakesh Verma, Calcutta

■ The story provided a fresh insight into the present fashion scenario. First we had the so-called fashion explosion, and with the advent of fashion institutes like NIFT and SNDT. we now have an invasion by Indian fashion designers.



Another Xerxes creation

poor they can hardly afford to buy proper meals for themselves, how are they going to opt for such 'fine'clothes?

So, please don't cheat the majority of Indians and help those who are in the business only for them-

Undoubtedly, Indian designers and their haute couture are here to stay. Pradeep Jain. Calcutta

Xerxes H. Bhathena dominated the pictorial part of your story on fashion designers. The photographs accompanying the piece were, nowever, excellent. Ramesh Pal Tewari, Calcutta

■ The affluent go by the remark of Oscar Wilde, "Fashion is what one wears oneself, what is unfashionable is what others wear. But for the middle-class. designer dresses are a far cry and they have to satisfy themselves with the cheap trendy readymades.

Javed Nishat. Calcutta

Not So Funny

Rabi Ghose ('Bagha Byne', December 23) is one of the best actors we have, but he should have expressed his views on his seniors like Bhanu Banerjee, Jahar Roy, Jiben Bose and Nabadwip Halder. He was also silent on Anup Kumar. Shovanlal Bakshi,

Calcutta

■ You should have paid this tribute to Rabi Ghose much before. Seeing his face is enough to make us laugh. People enjoy his attempts to entertain us, but no one knows about his private life.

Why did you not give us details about his family, ambitions and so on? Are they not part of the life of a "funny" man?

I think Satvajit Ray should think of making a silent film like Pushpak with Rabi Ghose in the lead because he is the only actor in Bengal whose face speaks volumes.

Ŕ, Verma, Calcutta

■ It is mentioned in the article that Grapes of Wrath was a Darryl Zanuck film. It should have been made clear that he was only the producer of the film which was directed by the world famous John Ford Mohammed Parvez and Sahanaz Zamir, Calcutta

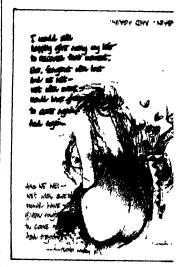
CONTENTS

The Telegraph

10 MARCH 1991

A look at the people who without necessarily conforming with the system still manage to wield a lot of power behind the throne.

Bengal's batting brothers have done their state. proud. Now Snehasish and Souray Ganguly have their sights set on the Indian cricket team.



High profile editor Pritish Nandy now comes home to Calcutta for an exhibition of his poems, and drawings

SECTIONS

Heritage 12 Inner Eye

7 Days

Junior Whirl

24 Quiz

25 Comics 30 Curry Curry Curry **COVER STORY**

THE MAVERICKS



Om Prakash Chauthala



Kamai Morarka

Sharad Pawar

They are laws unto themselves. Yet, they wield a lot of power,

writes

Sankarshan Thakur

 Which minister of state said of a Cabinet minister: "He is a vegetable I could have for breakfast "? (Maneka Gandhi of Nilamani Routray soon after he was made minister for environment by V.P. Singh)

 Which minister says, "Chandra Shekhar is my leader" and yet finances a group of newspapers that was, at least till recently, edited by a groupie of Chandra Shekhar's arch political enemy? (Komal Morarka. The founder-editor of one of the two newspapers he owns, Chauthi Duniya, was Santosh Bharatiya, Janata Dal MP and close associate of V.P. Singh)

• Who said: "I am a loyal soldier of the party"? (Om Prakash Chauthala on resigning from the chief ministership of Haryana after Meham, on becoming chief minister two months later, on being forced out of chief ministership a fortnight later and on becoming general secretary of the

ruling Janata Dal S)

• Who furned and frothed at Chauthala's Meham escapades and thought it was infra-dig to become minister of state and yet later not only found himself on the same side as Chautala but also acquiesced quietly after being deprived of his most important job as minister? (Union finance minister Yashwant Sinha)

• Who claims, rather proudly, to have been the brain behind preventing the Budget even at the cost of great embarrassment to his government and seething anger among some of his colleagues? (Union commerce minister,

Dr Subramanian Swamy)

 Which civil servant has turned Mrs Indira Gandhi's notion of "committed bureaucracy" into a personal triumph much to the chagrin and mortification, some say, of contemporaries and subordinates in the ranks? (Central election commissioner, T.N. Seshan)

• Who told V.P. Singh: "You be assured, I shall help you as much as you helped me on the Ayodhya issue" and joined Chandra Shekhar the following day? (Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mulayam Singh Yadav, two the National Front before days government fell)

• Who took help from the Congress(I) to save his skin on the ground that he had been authorised by the Central leadership and then said the Central leadership had no locus standi to authorise him? (Guiarat chief minister, Chimanbhai Patel, who performed a tantalising balancing act during the switch-over of governments in New Delhi last November by first claiming to have V.P. Singh's support in Guiarat

and then turning his back on him)

• Who said: "I am a man of my word "? (Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal as deputy Prime Minister of V.P. Singh and as deputy Prime Minister of Chandra

Shekhar)

• Whoever has demanded the banning of Tadak Dham Dham ? (Illegitimate question.)

The question should be: Who will ban this tadak dham dham? This mesmeric comic tragic enigmatic parody in real life that goes on unfolding its unforeseen patterns woven by dramatis personae that defy predictability; mavericks all, after their own fashion. Give them a minimum set of rules and no two will conform. It will be a bit of a surprise even if one does. When others' rules are not there, or important enough, to be violated, they would be violating their own. There aren't, in fact, any rules, not even survival as a government or a party, or else they would not act in the



Chimanbhai Patel: His own man

manner they often do Devi Lal hauls a holstein cow, flanks, tail, udders and all into his aircraft on his way back from the funeral of the Norwegian monarch Subramanian Swamy threatens the Lok Sabha Speaker in his own chamber and then drafts a petition to undermine his own legislative authority, in the middle of the oil/resource crunch Air Force helicopters are sent scurrying half way down the subcontinent and further to ferry filmstars, Chauthala asks the Congress(I) to "mind its own business' and to "give advice when sought" even as his party crawls at Rajiv Gandhi's feet

The word 'mavenck' answers to this description that it has no description at all Mayerick was the name of a crazy pilot in a craze of a film called Top Gun He flew underbelly up at Mach-4, swooped and rose at speeds and angles way beyond what the aircraft could take, or was supposed to take, violated combat rules every time he took off and made thunderous flypasts at control towers at the risk of losing his job. He was a ghost in the sky, though a lovable Hollywood ghost *Top Gun*'s sordid parody was watching the Gulf War "live on CNN" images of the film blended with footage of bombers leaving USS Saratoga and USS Wisconsun, only the music and the romance was gone, the exhilarating pyrotechnics of Top Gun's Tom Cruise turned into numbing pyromania over Baghdad and Basra

Tadak Dham Dham isn't a parody at all because the actual parody is the real, live, 24 hours a day action on the stage named India (And, perhaps, like the Gulf War, you could ask How long will it last?) Director Ramesh Sharma might finally prove less inventive than those his puppets seek to imitate His puppets merely mock, these are in the serious business of running the nation and are, in addition to everything else, also very powerful and influential in their own transient way.

Subramanian Swamy, for instance, takes care of the country's trade and commercial interests keeping a hectic itinerary at home and abroad It is another matter though that controversy follows him like a shadow. On his first visit abroad as minister. Swamy stirred a horner's nest by meeting his Israeli counterpart. This provoked a 'urore but Swamy' remained unfazed and unrepentant. He was dubbed the 'maverick minister' but he lapped that up for he is one of the few people who love to be called a maverick. Swamy is one of Delhi's most active and adept political wheeler-dealer He acts as negotiator be tween his Prime Minister and Rany Gandhi a role he guards jealously and has been revelling in since before Chandra Shekhar came to power

Ruling party circles have it that he had a role to play in the government's agree ment to grant refuelling facilities to US military aircraft— Swamy never fights shy of his pro American pio Israeli bent—and when the move threatened to rupture the Janata Dal(S)-Congress(I) relationship it was again he who acted peace maker Part of the cost of making peace with the Congress(I) was the forfeiture of the

single-handedly prevented from being frozen by the Election Commission

Political circles are rife with speculation that Swamy actually wants the finance minister's chair for he sees himself essentially as an economist Swamy himself would deny this but not the fact that he contributed to preventing the Union Budget from being tabled

Yashwant Sinha, the current incum-



Yashwant Sinha: Hot-headed adventurer behind the scenes

Chandra Shekhar government's right to present a Budget He was also closely involved with the decision to dismiss the DMK government in Tamil Nadu and will be looking forward to getting his piece of the pie by securing a partnership with the Congress(I) and the AIADMK Although he swears by Chandra Shekhar, Swamy has kept his options open and not yet merged his Janata Party formally with the Janata Dal(S) Though "technical reasons" are the ostensible reason for the delay in the merger, some believe Swamy is biding tune to see which way things go before he decides to dissolve his party. His party can boast of two assets (though Swamy will say three, counting himself as the third asset, which he probably is because he is sharp) the base of Deve Gowda m Karna taka and the original "haldhar kisan" symbol of JP's Janata Party, which Swamy has

bent, is the man feeling most robbed, upset at having been deprived of the glory of presenting a Budget It is not like Sinha to take things lying down-he was also believed to be upset at the removal of DN Ghosh from the chairmanship of Larsen and Toubro-but then, the man who has a carefully groomed media image of speaking the voice of his conscience has made his compromises. What else could explain the fact that after flaying Om Prakash Chauthala's role in Meham (despite his closeness to Chandra Shekhar who was even then backing Chauthala), he closed ranks with him and Devi Lal to upstage V P Singh A career bureaucrat who left the civil service in 1984 to join Chandra Shekhar, Sinha is never rash in public (defending V P Singh's victory in 1989 on television came as easily to him as engineering the painstaking numerical

coup against him barely a year later) but behind the scenes, he is a hot-headed adventurer prepared to take calculated risks, like the one he took by resigning from the service. Though currently amoyed because of the decision on the Budget, Sinha remains a key adviser to the Prime Minister on political and government matters and held his own against Devi Lal on the issue of subsidies, delivering cuts amounting to Rs 934 crores on food and fertilisers even though the deputy Prime Minister has openly taken a position against it.

amal Morarka, minister of state in the Amai Morarka, Humaster of another Prime Minister's office, is another one of those who hold their own on specific issues although in the larger scheme of things he stands firmly by Chandra Shekhar. One of the most couldn't-careless ministers in the current dispensation, he admits with disarming candour that the government may not last long. "Our life depends upon the Congress(I)'s will and what is the point of running away from that. And what if we are ousted from government? The skies won't fall." At the same time, however, Morarka, owner of the construction firm Gannon and Dunkerly and financier of the Hindi weekly Chauthi Duniya and Bombay tabloid. Afternoon Despatch and Courier, is involved full-time in the task of keeping the government afloat. Becoming a minister has not made a difference either to his lifestyle, which was high-flying in any case. or to his manner which has remained easy. informal and chatty. Close as he is—even workwise-to the Prime Minister, he has Chandra Shekhar's ear and is used as a sounding board for major decision-making. One of the additional tasks entrusted to him lately was monitoring news programmes on Doordarshan. Though he denies it, Morarka is part of the inner decisionmaking coterie. His major piece of advice to the Prime Minister recently: don't expand the Cabinet just now.

The minister of state for environment, Maneka Gandhi, is another one of those couldn't-care-less people. She was reported to be watering plants in her backyard the day Devi Lal was shaking the V.P. Singh government to its roots last July. And the day Devi Lal was booted out of the government, she was overseeing the spraying of weedicides in Harvana. Maneka Gandhi could not be bothered as long as she is left alone to do her job. Which, rather than any partisan loyalties, is the reason she switched sides to Chandra Shekhar at the time of the Janata Dal split. The Arun Nehru/industrial lobby had succeeded in foisting Nilamani Routray as Cabinet minister for environment and Maneka Gandhi found herself barricaded. She did once describe Routray as a

Brown of the property was a second of the second of the second of the second of the second of the second of the

"vegetable I could have for breakfast" but realised soon that the old man had teeth, albeit borrowed ones from Arun Nehru. Her environment courts proposal was stalled, the hotel lobby reached over her head to secure permission for construction on the Goa beaches. Reports of "brash and temperamental behaviour" emanated from her office, she had several angry exchanges with the then environment

secretary, Mahesh Prasad, who she charged with acting at the behest of Routray. She quit. And when the opportunity for a change presented itself, she took it even against the advice of her circle of friends who thought she did not quite being to the Chandra Shekhar-Devi Lal set. Maneka Gandhi has a whole world beyond politics that belongs to ailing pets and wonderous stories for children that even



Maneka Gandhi: On her own pet trip-

adults would enjoy. This is not to say, of course, that she has no stakes in politics but she is in it currently only because she thinks she can push her pet subject of environmental protection, if not so successfully in terms of concrete results, then only as a prominent subject on the national policy agenda.

Policy matters are something that least interest a man like Om Prakash Chauthala and to give the man his due, he does not even have any pretensions of being interested in them. "I am a humble man," he is in the habit of saying, hands lolded, "I do only what I am told to do by the party." Which is far from the truth because if there is anyone really powerful in the Janata Dal(S) organisation—for whatever it is worth-it is Om Prakash Chauthala. Under Chandra Shekhar he has emerged from the scars of Meham and bounced back to the centrestage as a power unto himself in the ruling party. Chauthaia may not have much say at the Centre where policy-formation is concerned but he is in total command of the organisation and the Haryana government runs according to his diktat. Chauthala is politically important to Chandra Shekhar for he is the only check the Prime Minister has on Devi Lal; he knows this and exploits this. Hard-working, though not always dexterous, Chauthala has not got very far yet with getting the Janata Dal(S) zoing even though he is an excellent organisation man and was mainly responsible or setting up Devi Lal's massive victory in the 1987 Harvana assembly elections. But Chauthala has been able to hide his failure rather well mainly through his presselations, or rather, non-relations with the press. Knowing full well that the media is not very well-disposed towards his party or the government, Chauthala has effected in unstated ban on official briefings, saving nimself and the party from too much exposure to the press; he speaks out only when he wants to say something.

Broadly in the same category as Chauthala, though much more suave and polished, is the Gujarat chief minister. Chinanbhai Patel. One of the cleverest manpulators going, Chimanbhai has the talents to outdo even the likes of Bhajan Lal. He as overcome the severest odds through sheer scheming and manoeuvring to emerge on top of Gujarat politics. During he 1974 Gujarat agitation, Chimanbhai (then Congress chief minister) was the piggest target of attack and was labelled 'Chiman-chor" but came the Janata government at the Centre in 1977 and Chinanbhai was again chief minister, this time is a Janata Party leader. He was one of the nain plotters of V.P. Singh's downfall last November and when his own government came perilously close to falling because of



Mulayam Singh Yadav: Never embarrassed by the notorious company he kee

the upheavals in New Delhi, he resorted to the flip-flop technique again. He worked out an arrangement with the Congress(I). secured its support in the Assembly and thumbed his nose at V.P. Singh, who had expelled him from his party post haste. Till as recently as last fortnight Chimanbhai was calling himself the leader of the Janata Dal legislature party in the Gujarat Assembly because he was unsure of splitting away enough MLAs with him. He rechristened his party Janata Dal(S) only after he was sure of his numbers. Because of his political skills. Chimanbhai is an asset to Chandra Shekhar-even in the short period that the Janata Dal(S) has been in power, he has been summoned for two crisis management missions to New Delhi: once to placate Devi Lal who was feigning disgruntlement because of the "neglect" of his younger son, Ramit Singh, and the next time to sort things out between Chandra Shekhar and Rajiv Gandhi when the relationship began to sour last month. Though a longtime associate of Chandra Shekhar, Chimanbhai's politics is motivated solely by self-interest and he may not hesitate to switch loyalties again should he feel the need to do so.

His Maharashtra counterpart, Sharad Pawar, is again one of those who wields power because of his cunning and his perceived potential for mischief. In addition, he also possesses a powerful Maratha base that outdied the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance in the Assembly elections in March 1990. Though not entirely unscrupulous and unreliable as some others, a section of Congressmen has always thought Pawar to be a shifty customer who could ditch the party to promote his interests. Pawar's past ecord goes some way to prove this. He has been in and out of the Congress and in and out of other parties as well. In 1986, having been out of power for several years, he decided to merge the Congress(S)-though K.P. Unnikrishnan and some others still maintain it was only a faction of het Congress(S)-into the Congress(I) and became chief minister of Maharashtra about a year later. His long friendship with Chandra Shekhar has provided Pawar baiters a handle against him and the allegation against him within the Congress(I) has been that he is becoming too big for his boots; indeed, there are even those who maintain he is building up an axis with Chandra Shekhar to "undermine" Rajiv Gandhi. Pawar seemed on the verge of losing out to dissidents last month but held out essentially because he is too powerfully entrenched to be disturbed. Besides, there is always the apprehension of what he might do to the party if ousted.

Similar apprehensions persist about the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mulayam Singh Yadav, who, by the post-Mandal logic of the political situation, should have stayed with V.P. Singh. Again, it is his mayerick nature and his strong personal likes and dislikes that put him on Chandra Shekhar's side. Typically, Mulayam Singh fought like a soldier in a trench against the BJP-Vishwa Hindu Parishad assault on the disputed mosque-temple site in Ayodhya, a bit too much like a soldier for his own good perhaps. So afraid was the Congress(I) of losing all the Hindu votes in the state if it supported Mulayam Singh that it had virtually secured his ouster at one stage. Typically, once again, Mulayam Singh threatened the Congress(I) with elections and his own party bosses with leaving the fold to cling on to power. In his speeches from the pulpit, Mulayam Singh eulogises Mahatma Gandhi and Lohia but keeps company, most of the time, with dreaded and notorious gangsters. To keep the record straight, though, Mulayam Singh is never embarrassed by this. "Yes I keep company with them because I am trying to reform them. Even JP reformed dacoits and he did not do that without meeting them." There is a feeling in a section of the ruling party that Mulayam Singh may part company with the Janata Dal(S) in the next election essentially because of the Mandal issue. Yet, he has been trying to sharpen the party's position on reservations and forced a significant amendment on this at the recent Ballia session of the party. Mulayam Singh's importance in the party was evident from the fact that the amendment was carried without a whimper of protest even though some leaders on the stage were evidently against such a forthright stand. Mulayam Singh was never one to pull his punches: rashtrabhasha the campaigner had the temerity, even in Hindi-hating Tamil Nadu, to order noticeboards in English torn down.

amil Nadu Seshan, they call him in the civil service. Perhaps out of sheer pique for T.N. Seshan isn't quite an endearing personage. Indeed, he is known to have rubbed up a lot of people the wrong way during his long innings in the IAS. Now Chief Election Commissioner, Seshan was one of the most prominent bureaucrats of the Rajiv Gandhi raj, having served first as defence secretary and then as Cabinet secretary. He is one of M those officials who had the reputation for being close to the Congress(I) bosses and never went out of his way to disguise it. Indeed he is known to have flaunted it at times. He is also a former student of the commerce minister, Subramaniam Swamy (the latter taught him at Harvard during one of the training programmes for civil servants) and is believed to have helped Swamy with his exposure of telephone tapping in Karnataka during R.K. Hegde's tenure as chief minister. His association with Swamy is one of the reasons for Seshan's persisting clout, the other being



T.N. Seshan: Not the most lovable person

that he is also an amateur astrologer, a breed that politicians seem to have a special weakness for. Though out of the the mainstream, Seshan continues to advise ministers and is all set to play a crucial role as Chief Election Commissioner in the forthcoming Assembly elections in his home state.

Last, but in no way the least, the uncrowned king of them all: the deputy Prime Minister, Devi Lal, himself. If he isn't a maverick, nobody is for nobody defies description the way he does. Sweet grand-daddy one day, belligerent challenger the other; accommodating one moment, aggressive and avaricious the other; loyal and humble today, rebellious and rude tomorrow. Nobody quite matches Devi Lal's capacity for switching sides, moods and positions. Is he the same man who placed the Prime Minister's crown on V.P. Singh's head? And how sweetly he explained away his act when asked why he did that after agreeing to have an election for the post in the parliamentary party? "I was driving in the car to Parliament and I changed my mind. Just that."

most are surprised that a Indeed, man of Devi Lal's unpredictability did not keep the Prime Ministership for himself after having been unanimously elected to the post.

Subramanian Swamy: Stirring a hornet's nest wherever he goes



TACKLING KRISHNA MENON

Then someone asked me the other day who in my long career I had found the most dificult person to work with. I replied without a moment's hesitation: "Krishna Menon". Here was a man who drove you up the wall. You either liked him or you loathed him-there was no other way about it. Not many may remember him today, but in his time-from Independence to the middle Sixties—he was a force to be reckoned with.

I served directly under V. K. Krishna Menon for a comparatively brief period-first, for about a year in London during 1948-49 when he was high commissioner and I was public relations officer, and again for about the same period when I was with the United Nations Division in the ministry of external affairs and he was defence minister. To all intents and purposes, he was also minister of UN

I will never forget the day when I received orders transferring me from Canada to the United Kingdom. I just broke out into a cold sweat. This was the time when the government of India was suffering from what people called "Menongitis". A Menon (KPS) was foreign secretary, another (VP). was in charge of the States, and there was a clutch of other Menons in high office all over the place, several in the foreign service. Most of them were "wonderful chaps", I was told, but the one in London was a disaster. "He takes the cake," I was told.

So I went to Hardit Singh Malik, who had newly arrived in Ottawa and just presented his credentials, and told him that I wanted out and would he help me in this plan? The high commissioner told me to relax. He poured me a stiff whisky and another for himself. "One doesn't turn down a promo-tion", he advised me. "In London you'll have an office 10 times larger than this one and

Try telling a boss like that to have his tea with su-su...

many times more important. This is something big. Drink up and go pack your bags."

Thus it was two months later I found myself in the presence of the great man. He barely looked up from the file he was reading, poured himself his umpteenth cup of tea (he drank this beverage by the gallon) motioned me to a chair, scowled, and barked: "Well?

I introduced myself, referring to a letter I had written from Ottwa pledging my utmost devotion in the work he was directing. "What let-ter?" he snapped. "Nobody shows me anything around here". When I told this to the private secretary afterwards, he produced my letter with the initials "VKKM" scrawled in green ink in a corner. "The ruddy so-and-so", said the PS, a former naval type. "He does this all the time".

A few days later Gandhiii was assassinated and bedlam broke loose at India House. During the turnult, I received a visit from a director of Madame Tussaud's, the famous waxworks museum. They wanted to put up an effigy of the Mahatma, he told me, and for the purpose they required blown-up photos from different angles and specimens of articles with which the dead leader was identified loin cloth. sandais, charkha, spectacles, timepiece, etc. As the pouch was leaving for Delhi within the hour, I put in an urgent requisition to the ministry.

Some days later I was summoned to the HC's office. A cipher message had arrived calling for further details regarding the Tussaud project, "Why was I not informed?" Menon demanded. "This is a matter of topmost importance. and only I should have handled it. I would have spoken to Sardar Patel". Then he gave me a lecture on protocol and where I fitted in the scheme of things.

He made another awful fuss when I was appointed secretary-general to our delegation to the Freedom of Information Conference in Geneva, which meant that I would be away from London for two months. "How the hell do they expect me to run the bloody place when they take away all my staff?" he exploded, in words to this effect.

I was always at loggerheads with the high commissioner, in spite of which I had a sneaking admiration for the man. Whatever his critics thought of his methods-and these were regarded as devious by some and downright objectionable by others-no one could deny his dedication to duty nor his loyalty or patriotism. Besides, he had a brain the size of a water-melon.

I could tell a dozen stories about him, some of them none too flattering, but my favourite concerns the time he came to Indonesia as a delegate to the Bandung Conference. He was minister without portfolio then and, on arrival at Diakarta, had been put up in the Hotel des Indes, once the pride of Dutch East Indies hospitality, but now somewhat dilapidated and run-down.

I was counsellor at the Embassy and went to see if he was comfortable. I found him in his pyjamas in the verandah outside his room, in a black mood because the bearer had neglected to bring him milk on his tea-tray. "I can't drink tea without milk", he grumbled. "It doesn't taste the same."

"But it's simple, sir", I told him. "All you have to do is ask for su-su. That's the Bahasa for milk."

He glared at me. "I'm damned if I'll ever ask for su-su," he bellowed, and drank milkless tea for the rest of his stay. P. L. Bhandari





HERTAGEG ROBLEMENT

SAGORE LALL DUTTA (1821-86)



A well-known philanthropist of his time, Sagore Lall Dutta is best remembered for his charitable disposition. He donated more than Rs 13 lakh through a will towards the construction of a free school for boys. The amount was deposited with the Administrative General of Bengal.

Dutta was born in Chinsurah, Hooghly. His father, Mohan Chand, was a successful trader in bronze, zinc, candle and spices. Dutta had his primary education at Chinsurah and later moved to Calcutta for further studies. He joined his father's business when only 16. Subsequently he switched over to Carlisle Nephew & Co., and thereafter started his own business in indigo and finally, in jute. His trade mark for jute was the letter 'M', written within a triangle, representing his father's initials.

Dutta left a princely wealth comprising his Calcutta property, and zamindari for the benefit of the public. The charitable dispensary and hospital at Kamarhati (on the outskirts of

north Calcutta) named after him stands as a memory of his generosity.

Dutta is believed to be the first Indian individual subscriber to the Calcutta Telephones. His number was Central 50. He had two daughters and adopted Manik Lal as his son. The sketch above shows Dutta's central Calcutta residence at 14 Gopal Chandra Lane where he died. The Calcutta Corporation has renamed Sobharam Bysack 1st Lane (also in central Calcutta) after him.

MEREYET BEGINDEN CONNECTION

RIES

March 21-April 20 It is time to move

mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and psychologically, and adapt to circumstances. In romance, better keep your options open as in and after August you will have a choice. Those employed will rake in money. An overdose of work could tell on your health. Thanks to Mercury, travel and commuting are fated.

AURUS

April 21-May 20 Children, hobbies, research, studies, knowhow, collaborations, housemove and transfer make an exciting week. In romance, your heart pulsates to a jungle beat. The financial side shows a lot of promise. in travel, fuse a little leisure and happiness will silde into your heart. Overindulgence could be a liability to your health. Renovation to child bearing is

EMINI

May 21-June 20

the range of the domestic sector.

The first three days are ideal to make a head-start. Finish pending chores and then launch a venture if so interested. Romance will be not and cold. In finance, buying, selling, trading, shopping, sales and distribution are definitely highlighted. Health will pose slight problems. Work could compel you to undertake a journey. The week certainly focalises home, office, industry site and development.



June 21---July 20 Contacts, contracts, new schemes, public-

ity boost, communication and correspondence are the principal features of the week. You have much to look forward to in romance. The financial side will be fairly comfortable. As regards your health, it is best not to fret over trifles and fancied hurts. and all will be splendid.

ΕO July 21--August 21 Money is the name of the game, be it earned income, shares, stocks,

dividends, investments, loans, funds and public trust. A family get-together is foretold. Romance will be bitter-sweet, but never a damp squib. Travel is a distinct possibility. As regards

















your health, you are still on a shuky wicket.

August 22-Sept 22

IRGO

those employed will be available.

A radical change in your lifestyle is foreseen as the full moon, according to Western astrology, falls in your sign. Strong attachments and reactions are absolutely certain. It is just the right time for romance, engagement and wedlock. Financial opportunities for The mid-week is ideal for trips and ties. A nagging health allment or vexation may still be with you. The domestic front shows a good going.

IBRA

Sept 23---Oct 22 Rendezvous, travel, secret negotiations

and deals, and surreptitious and mysterious relationships are the week's main trends. Romance promises unusual and subtle ties as well as plenty of excitement.

The financial frontier constitutes expenses, buying, selling, negotiating, trading, commission and brokerage.

CORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 22 Friendship, socialis-ing and children usurp your time and talent. Romance will be thriffing and titillat-ing. Financial deals can be closed and transactions will prove lucky. March through May is travel time. Avoid phobias and fixations, and everything will be fine with your health.

> **AGITTARIUS** Nov 23--- Dec 20 Hard work will de-

finitely lead to success, but at the same time it will tax you to the outer limit. Romance will be a much-needed safety valve. The financial graph shows an upward trend. Immigration, transfer, shift and change of scenery are not ruled out. Take time off to relax.



APRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19

It is best to launch a campaign, take a study course, start an enterprise,

plan expansions, undertake a journey and organise a meet. Romance, specially on March 15 and 16, gives immense satisfaction. In finance you swing a deal, bag an assignment, and go in for important transactions and bargains or takeover of a company.

QUARIUS

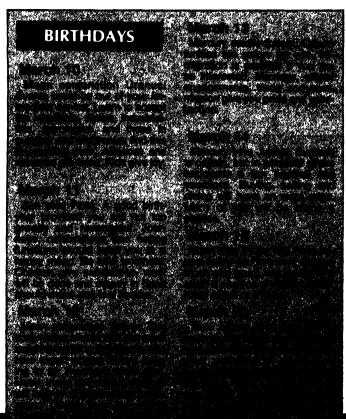
Jan 20 - Feb 18 it is time to invest. buy or sell, have a

ball of a time, and fuse pleasure with journey. In finance, you make substantial gains. A journey is indicated, a change of scenery too. Your health shows some improvement. The domestic affairs include childbirth or conception, and getting essential household commodities and furniture or electrical gadgets for the house.

Feb 19-March 20 The main trends of the week are romance, marriage, business linkups, partnerships, travel and expenses. Romance is the area where you really excel. Finances include investing, purchasing and capital raising. Contacts and communication hold the key to.

travel, it is best to stay happy as mind over matter applies to you.

ISCES



LIMELIGHT

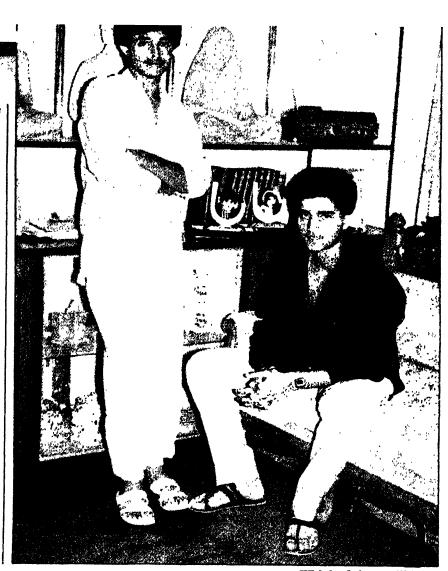
arc lights had focused solely on the younger Sourav. Till the Ranji quarter-final between champions Bengal and Karnataka. That's when the elder Snehasish brought back memories of some 15 months ago when he was being talked of as an India prospect. The elder Ganguly's epic, unbeaten century at the Eden not only helped Bengal shut out formidable Karnataka, it rescued him from the soon-to-be-forgotten club.

Dozens of first class hundreds have been scripted at the Eden. Many under choking pressure. But perhaps none with a hairline fracture on the right foot. That Snehasish overcame both pain and pressure is what places his effort in a different

league.

Parents Chandi (a former first division cricketer) and Nirupa have reason to sport broad smiles. For both the prodigious Souray, 18, and 23-year-old Snehasish are being spoken of in quite the same breath. In some ways it's a throwback to the not-too-distant past when Amarnaths, Surinder and Mohinder, featured in the sprint for the India cap. One difference, of course, being that both Ganguly are southpaws. "A family fashion," they explained with that ubiquitous, winning smile.

While there will be a debate over which of the Brothers Ganguly is more talented, there's little doubt that they have indeed arrived. The question is: where from here? The Maidan seems abuzz with this query. Clearly, the brothers, who are somewhat reticent and prefer their per-



Which of them will it be?

BENGAL BROTHERS

formances to do the talking, have won numerous wellwishers.

Over the years, domestic performances have largely been buried with international engagements holding centrestage. But this season has been an exception. And Sourav is one of the few to have repeatedly turned in superlative displays, capitalising fully on the media and the selectors' attention. For many Calcuttans, Sourav is the answer to Bombay's Sachin Tendulkar

The class XII student of St Xavier's began decently in the season-launching Irani Trophy and followed it up with a scintillating century in the Deodhar quarter-final at Pune. A few weeks later came

Snehasish and Sourav
Ganguly are both in the running for a place in the Indian cricket team following their recent performances on the domestic circuit.

LOKENDRA PRATAP SAHI talks to the siblings

a brilliant hundred in the Duleep quarter final at Guwahati. And this on a wicket as lethally deceptive as a minefield. Both centuries were against the West. They still say a hundred against West Zone is worth its weight in gold.

Coming to the Ranji Trophy, Sourav has four scores between 72 and 87, including a 74 versus Karnataka. "I could have reached three figures all four times...centuries do count," remarks Sourav, failing to hide the disappointment.

However, India vice-captain Ravi Shastri's recent signed article, where he opined that Sourav "was knocking hard on the doors of international cricket" must have gladdened him considerably. And just the other day, national skipper Mohammed Azharuddin told this writer that he rates Sourav highly. "He's definitely one with a glowing future."

While it's true that Tendulkar has opened an avenue for other youngsters to make it big—debunking in the process the too-early-to-be-blooded theory—only the gifted and tenacious can actually do so. Like Souray, whose first-class debut was in an extraordinary match, last season's Ranii final.

That he is a medium pacer, and so qualifies as an allrounder, is to his advantage. His pace may be a shade quicker than military-medium, but the movement can be well concealed.

Though Sourav wishes to be recognised as an allrounder, he concedes that his batting exploits make more headlines. Still, he's already got two four-wicket hauls over the past couple of months. First against UP in the Wills Trophy and then in the Duleep game at Guwahati.

Sourav remarks that credit for whatever he's achieved as a bowler should go to the high-profile MRF Pace Foundation. "I made four 15-day trips in 1988 and imbibed a great deal. That Lillee himself was present on all four occasions made my visits all the more fruitful. I've learnt everything from the Foundation."

It's only because he wasn't willing to be tied down for four years, that Sourav declined the contract offered by the Foundation.

Snehasish made his Ranji debut in the 1986-87 season, but made a mark two years later with a string of fine scores that caught the national selectors' eyes. And at the start of the 1989-90 season, Snehasish was in the running for higher honours. By the end of it, he wasn't even in the Bengal XI. Something that still rankles.

"The disappointment of being dropped

THE MARATHON MAN

After starting as an outsider, **Srikant Kalyani** has forced his way to the inside track

The fourth day of the Ranji Trophy quarter final between Bengal and Karnataka was just over. Within quarter of an hour of the draw of stumps, a man emerged from the Bengal dressing room and headed straight for the Eden Gardens turf. As the Bengal camp discussed the final day's strategies to chase an "impossible" task, the man did some intricate yogic exercises with only the cuckoos around him. A close look at him and it was found to be Srikant Kalyani—a man who had already spent over 20 hours on the field but did not show even the slightest sign of tiredness in him.

Bengal were 315 with four of their top batsmen back in the pavilion when stumps were drawn on the fourth and penultimate day. Kalyani was unbeaten on 144 and he had done only half of his job. The entire Bengal cricket fraternity looked up to him to help Bengal achieve the "impossible". Kalyani was a man with a mission.

It was only after tea on the fifth day that Kalyani finally left the crease. Instead of acknowledging the thunderous ovation the crowd gave him for his career-best 260, he walked back to the pavilion very unhappy. At Kalyani's dismissal, Bengal were still far from their target, and even though Snehasish Ganguly waged a heroic battle, a lot remained to be done.

"I was so depressed when I saw the umpire's finger going up. I forgot my

score and the first thing that flashed in my mind was whether we would make it," he recalls. Bengal did make it in the end and Kalyani can take the lion's share of the credit.

Ironically, Kalyani was playing only his third Ranji match and the first this season for Bengal. The 25-year-old from Pune had migrated to Bengal last season and although he had captained the strong Maharashtra team, Bengal's recent run of success at the national level and the lure of club cricket, which often pays handsomely, made Kalyani change his mind.

Kalyani was an instant success in the local CAB league and he was immediately drafted in the Bengal Ranji team. But the four wise men who pick the playing eleven, played Kalyani in only two zonal matches. Kalyani spent the rest of his time on the sidelines as Bengal went on to win the Ranji Trophy after a gap of 51 years last season.

The first question Kalyani was asked after Bengal beat Delhi at the Eden Gardens in the last week of March 1990 was whether he would go back to Maharashtra. He said nothing except the would wait for an opportunity. He was clearly disappointed at having been overlooked by the Bengal selectors.

His long wait ended when a day before the Bengal-Karnataka match, he was given the first indication that he would play. Karnataka had a good

in the Ranji final still hurts...I don't know why I was dropped...that set my career back by a year," he says, making no effort to conceal the disappointment.

But wasn't the disappointment offset by Sourav making his debut? The answer is

quick. "Well, partly. I shouldn't be misunderstood but I feel Sourav had little to gain from that match. The stakes were much, much higher for me. Anyway, my century against Karnataka must have proved a point or two."

Even though Snehasish started this season on the front foot, getting an impressive half century in the Irani, and that, too, on an awful wicket, he flopped till the final zonal league game versus Tripura, where he struck 158. Though that is hardly an achievement, it did wonders for Snehasish's confidence. His very next first-class outing was against Karnataka.

Snehasish concedes that Sourav has a better chance of donning the India cap, but feels that last month's gallant century has given him fresh hope. "If we make the final I'll then get two outings to reinforce my claims. Despite the injury, my mood is upbeat. A lefthanded middle-order bat is a must in any side..."

He emphasises that even a "friendly rivalry" does not exist between the brothers. "Look, I'll be thrilled if Sourav plays for the country. And I'm confident







Worth the wait

bowling attack and Bengal were not willing to risk an extra bowler.

Kalyani has set his sights on a place in the Indian team. What's more, he's certain he'll make it. And nothing speaks more eloquently than his near 10-hour battle for Bengal. Kalyani with seven first class hundreds is certainly a force to reckon with.

Kalyani has an impressive track record. His five Ranji hundreds apart, he has done very well for the Indian under-25 teams on overseas tours. His sound batting techniques even drew accolades from the great Sir Richard Hadlee after Kalyani played a brilliant innings at Rajkot when the Kiwis visited India two seasons back.

With India's tour Down Under forthcoming and Bengal still in contention for the Ranji Trophy, Kalyani's chances still remain wide open. Another gallant innings from him will only stand him in good stead.

Soumitra Bose

Sourav will feel the same way if I get a break." The younger Ganguly echoes his brother's views. In fact, Snehasish in some ways inspired Sourav to take to the sport. "He was a very fine footballer and a marvellous athlete. But by practising with me he took a liking for cricket. That father, too, was a cricketer was also significant," Snehasish points out.

It's only in recent years that Debu Mitra has been coaching both the brothers. Snehasish's first coach was his father and then M.P.Parmar. Sourav, though, has almost throughout been coached by Mitra.

Snehasish is specially indebted to Dilip Doshi, the former state captain who was the Sporting Union skipper when he signed up in 1982-83. "The encouragement he gave was enormous. Arun Lal has also been an inspiration. I've been benefited from being in touch with them," says Snehasish. Not surprising this, as both Doshi and Lal have transformed Bengal cricket. And if Bengal is now a force to contend with, a massive chunk of the credit must go to Messrs Doshi and Lal.

Sourav first caught the eye at the U-15 Slevel and hasn't looked back since. Still, when he was earning rave reviews on the cricket field, he was also busy setting up goals in inter-school soccer games. It's only recently that the medio hung up his football boots. "Though I miss soccer, I stay away as the prospect of getting injured is nightmarish..."

Reflecting on his debut in the seniors' league last season. Sourav savs he wasn't under any pressure. "I've never ever felt pressure, though it doesn't mean I get impulsive. I normally assess the situation before I decide to go after the bowling or play safe." Sourav got just 22 in the Ranji final, but the couple of rasping fours he lashed are still remembered.

Snehasish stresses that his approach is forever positive. "Even in the Karnataka match, skipper Roy was thinking of sending me lower in the order. But I said, "There's no point in going number nine or ten. Let me go now and see if a lost game can somehow be won.' My positive attitude helped."

How often do the brothers exchange notes? "Not off the field. Once we're home it's studies for me and video cassettes for my brother," Sourav answers. "We do exchange thoughts, both during the match and at nets. The fact that both of us are lefthanders makes it easy. One can tell the other where he's going wrong," Snehasish chips m

Unlike the elder sibling who idolises Allan Border, Sourav has no favourites though he admires the Little Master's technique and David Gower's elegance. Perhaps this explains the panache in Sourav's batting.

Sourav has a healthy respect for Bombay's Vinod Kambli, the one youngster who will be pushing him for a place in the national side. And rates Tendulkar "brilliant", but adds, somewhat tongue-incheek, "for his age". They were teammates on the 1989 tour of England with Kailash Gattani's colts team.

He cleverly parries the query as to who is more talented—he or Snehasish. "What do you feel?" is Sourav's smiling counter. Snehasish is more forthcoming. "A difficult question...but maybe Maharaj (Sourav) is more talented than I was as an 18-year-old..."

Bengal have made it to the semi-finals, but both brothers are losing some sleep. And for different reasons. Though Snehasish presents a perky front, the fracture cannot but be at the back of his mind. He has dispensed with the plaster as that would render him inactive for some six weeks. Sourav's anxiety is over the possible re-scheduling of the Ranji final. If it spills into April, then it will clash with his



Snehasish: On double guard

final exams.

Come summer and Snehasish will again be engaged in the Scottish League. Sourav will remain here. "I'm sure I can hone my skills by playing in the UK, but the thought of being away for four months doesn't really appeal."

The brothers have set their sights high But they're not the type to make brash statements. 'The prospect—of playing for the country is the biggest motivation," says Snehasish. "No specific—goal because if you set a target then you'll invite pressure. But—yes, I'm eager for the India call...a cricketer can't aspire for anything higher," adds Sourav. The look is dreamy and appears to be set on the MCG—Or, perhaps the Sydney cricket ground.

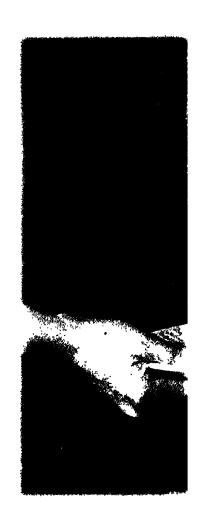
With clear-cut priorities complementing talent and grit, it's only a matter of time before one of the Gangulys-- by all indications, Souray—makes it to the elite league of Test players. As Gopal Bose, a disting uished figure in local cricketing circles, put it: "Both are talented, but as things stand, I'll be backing Souray for going to Australia next winter"

What about you?



for A GOOD WIFE

to BEHAVE?



16000

Egg



Life's hard enough for a man who's well into his thirties, without being informed by his wife, one fine morning, that he's on a cholesterol - free diet.

No more sinful food, she orders. Certainly no more butter. And just in case he should feel like helping himself from the refrigerator, he could always ask for the key.

Is this what they mean by wifely concern? Or is it, perhaps, a case of being a touch too rigid?

And does it really prevent him from going out somewhere and

Cholesterol (mg / kg)

Stuffing himself with, say, butter pav bhaji? Or something equally unworthy

of including in a diet? Maybe you should try a more subtle approach.

MARGARINE: THE LOW CHOLESTEROL OPTION

Mutton

Cholesterol (mg / kg)

Margarine

2800

Cheese

1200

Mutton

700

Take a large dollop of Spredit margarine, spread it lavishly on toast

で製造の製造の製造機能があった。 これにはなってはない。 新々など、新々など、またないによってはない。 とうしょう はんしょう はんしょう



and place it casually on the table. Observe him as he crunches into it. It's almost certain he'll believe

he's having buttered toast. You see, margarine tastes just like butter.

Vitamin A Vitamin D (IU)(200 g equivalent) 7000 400 Margarine Butter 5000 40 1800 Cheese 0 Mutton 2400 0 Egg 2000 140

Source: Documenta Geigi Scientific Tables, Ciba Geigy Ltd., Suntzerland. And because it's made from refined sunflower oil, it helps

control cholesterol levels. It's also got an abundance of vitamins

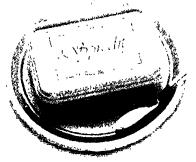
A and D, as you can see from the table

on the left.

It's quite possible that

margarine will change the way your husband looks at breakfast.

Not to mention the way you look at it.



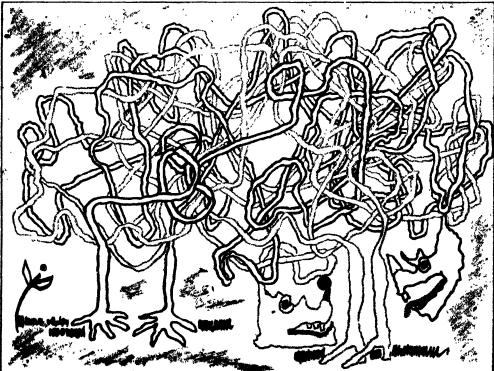
SPREDIT MARGARINE. THE TASTE OF BUTTER without THE GUILT.

ART!



Pritish Nandy, the illustrious editor of India, is back in Calcutta. With an exhibition of poems and drawings at Galerie 88

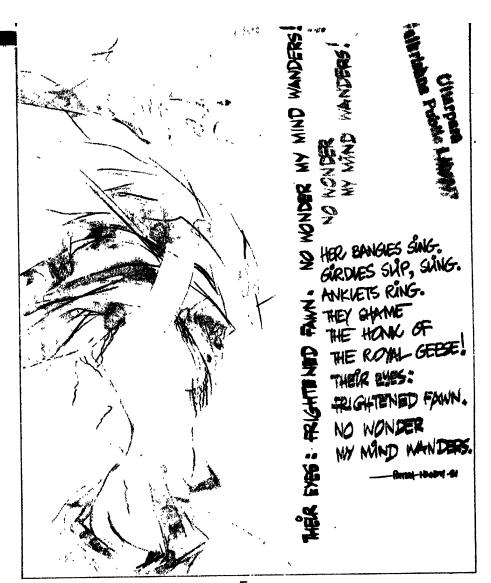


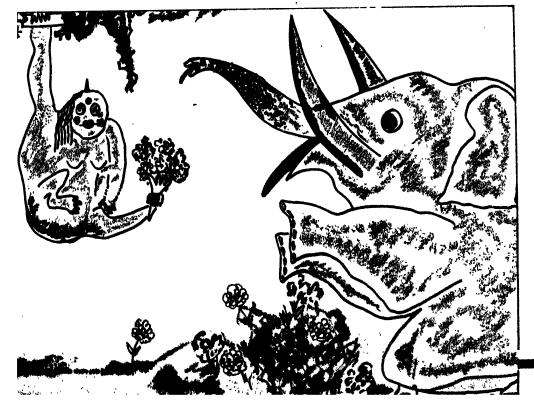


Mulk Raj Anand:

"Have you seen the pictures of Garcia Lorca. of Rabindranath Tagore? The doodles of Pablo **Neruda? They all show** angry words becoming images, releasing pent-up teelings. You are like them, an instinctive expressionist. The anger and compassion come from the core of your poet's being. While painting for your children, you have succeeded in making a very powerful, very imaginative artistic statement"

Manuscripts of Nandy's recreations of ancient Sankrit love poetry, such as the one on the right, are accompanied by Samir Mondal's drawings





M.F.Husain:

"Your images, savage. Drip blood. Red. green and black. Sting of Kali's tongue. Red Airvat charging ahead, a seductive monkey holding a bouquet. How strange to believe that vour animals and birds shrieking do co-exist with us. Your images are truly exciting. Loved them. They are magical, not child-like as you have us believe"

All Information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Daddy: Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 274259)-4 shows.

A film by Mahesh Bhatt, starring Anupam Kher, Pooja Bhatt, Manohar Singh, Soni Razdan, Neena Gupta and Avtar Gill. The music is by Rajesh Roshan.

• Farishtay: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442) -- 4 shows.

Directed by Anil Sharma and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Sridevi, Rajnikant, Jaya Prada, Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Sadashiv Amrapurkar.

 Khoon Ka Karz: Opera (Lenn) Sarani; 281849), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Khanna (APC Road; 552932,, Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi

Sangeeta Bijlani and Sonu Walia in Numbri Aadmi

Road; 350680), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue: 464440), Ujiala (Russa Road; 478666).

Vinod Khanna, Sunjay Dutt, Raınikant, Dimple Kapadıa, Kimi Katkar, Sangeeta Bijlani, Shakti Kapoor and Kader Khan are the chief attractions of this film, directed by Mukul S. Anand. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Numbri Aadmi: New Cinema

(Lenin Sarani; 270147), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 478141), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033).

Directed by Swaroop Kumar and with music by Bappi Lahiri the main cast includes Mithun Chakraborty, Kimi Katkar, Sangeeta Bijlani, Kunal Goswami, Sonu Walia, Suresh Oberoi, Aruna Irani and Amrish Puri.

• Patthar Ke Phool: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Jagat (APC Road; 365108), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Road; 410417), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133).

A love story, starring Salman Khan and Raveena Tandon. The film is directed by Anant Balani and



• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerice Road; 242664) 4

shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Chandni play the lead in this Saawan Kumar film. Others costarring are new-find Kanchan, Puneet Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Danny and Pran. The music is by Mahesh-Kishor.

• Saugandh: Elite (S.N. Baner jee Road; 241383)-4 shows.

A film by Raj Sippy, starring Raakhee, Akshay Kumar, Shantipriya, Mukesh Khanna, Panka, Dheer and Rupa Ganguly.

· Yodha: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road, 277273), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 484808), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270).

Directed by Rahul Rawail and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Sunny Deol, Sunjay Dutt, Sangeeta Bijlanı and Danny.



Special Events

11 March onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm

A week-long exhibition of Dilip Kumar Das' paintings in the West Gallery.

 Manipur State Kala Akademi will hold a week-long exhibition of paintings in the Central Gallery.

 Supriyo Banerjee will hold a week-long exhibition of his paintings in the New South Gallery.

 Swapan Goswami will hold a week-long exhibition of sculptures in the South Gallery.

• Quest (group) will hold a weeklong exhibition of paintings in the New Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302). 11 March: 6.30 pm

Kalkut Natya Sangstha will stage Continuity, a play in Bengali, directed by Kaustuv Sen.

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street).

14 March: 6.30 pm Nandikar will stage Sankhapurer Sukanya, directed by Rudrapra-

sad Sengupta.



Ajoy Chakraborty

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302).

15 March: 6 pm

Patha Rhavan Montessori and Primary Department presents an evening of classical music, featuring Ajoy Chakraborty (vocal) and Dhaynesh Khan (sarod).

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani; 449086).

12-15 March: 6 pm

Ragmee's 18th annual classical music confernece features Sonali Banerice (Bharata Natvam), Ruma Sanyal (vocal) and a flute-violin duet by Debaprasad Baneriee and Sulaya Banerjee on 12th; Debajit Chakraborty (sitar), Pritish Bhattacharya (vocal) and Anindita Lahiri (Kathak) on 13th: Purnima Sen (vocal) and Brojen Mukherjee (Kathak) on 14th; and Seema Bhattacharya (vocal), Bidyut Khan (sarod) and group Kathak on 15th.



Radha Dutta

At Birla Academy of Art & Cul ture (108-109 Southern Avenue 467843/9802).

16 March: 6 pm

A Mohini Attam dance recital by Radha Dutta.

At Sri Aurobindo Bhavan (I Shakespeare Sarani).

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-

Tokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915; Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): Al-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2025. London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7):

Al-132/1328 at 1230.

Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1625.

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1825.

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanol: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0755; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0905. * Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-

Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1755; Dep. (2) SU-542 at 1905.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-185 at 0630.

Amman-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184 at 0800

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-420 at 1310.

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at 1210.

Celcutta-Bengkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6). TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1530.

Kathmendu-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): RA-213 at 1430.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (3, 6): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (daily): BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935.

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (3, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (daily): BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855. Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5).

BG-698 at 1950.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5). BG-697 at 1910.

Celcutta-Paro: Dep. (2): KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India *****

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (2): Ai-101 at 0230

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): Ai-1328 at 1230.

Indian Airlines www.

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily). IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily). IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850: Arr. (daily). IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-765 at 1700; Arr. (daily): IC-766 at 2210.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-771 at 0610; Arr. (daily): IC-772 at 1200

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily): IC-409 at

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-410 at 0615.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340; Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0800; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-743 at 1330, Dep. (3, 5, 6, 7):

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Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule.
This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266869, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

IC-241 at 0700, Dep. (1, 2, 4): IC-241 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-744 at 1600, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1350, Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 0900. Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2. 4. 6): IC-285 at 0530; Arr (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily). IC-201 at 1400; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1730.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily) IC-221 at 1100; Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1320

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (daily), IC-255 at 1050; Arr. (daily): IC-256 at 1530

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910.

Celcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-270 at

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-219 at 0840, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-220 at 1320.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 7): IC-277 at 1745; Arr (1, 2, 7). IC-278 at 2215

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 0700; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at 0915

Calcutta-imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-259 at 1330; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-260 at 1610.

Vayado

Calcutta-Agartala-Imphal: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-727 at 0530; Arr. (1, 3, 5) PF-728 at 1120.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (7); PF-729A at 0550; Arr. (7): PF-730A at 1050.

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-701 at 1140; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-702 at 1615.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kallashahar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-729 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-730 at 1040. Calcutta-Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar-Calcutta: Dep.

(2, 4, 6): PF-701 at 1100; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-702 at 1715.

Calcutta-Rourkela: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-715 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-716 at 0855

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (2, 6): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (2, 6): PF-710 at 1840.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (4): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (4): PF-710 at 1750.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep (7): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (7): PF-710 at 1705.

Calcutta-Aizawi-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta

PF-705 at 0915, Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) PF-706 at 1620 Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-729A at 1130, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-730A at 1410 Calcutta-Aizawi-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4, 6) PF-705 at 0910 and PF-729B at 1310, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-706 at 1255 and PF-730B at 1655

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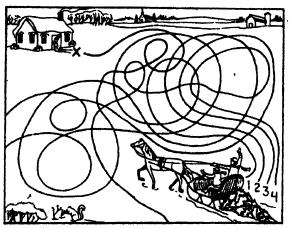
Calcutta-Jamahedpur-Ranchi-Patna: Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-725 at 0550 Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-726 at 1115 Calcutta-Jamahedpur: Dep (2,

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4, 6) PF-717 at 0550, Arr (2, 4, 6) PF-718 at 0745
Calcutta-Cooch Beher: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-707 at 0600; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-708 at 0655

Trains									
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SUNIOR WHEELS AND COURSE



HOME STRETCH! One of four paths leads to home in old-tashioned holiday acone. Which one is for you to say.

e. FUN WORLD! What happens when: One thousand, two hundred, nothing and one; transposed give a word expressive of fun. What word? Hint: Think Roman.

The word COMIC



TOY WITH WOODS TO ANSWER Holldey season, and that makes children happy. But what hol The nine letters of

TOY SEASON may be anagrammed to denote how St Nick, and parents, too, often may describe this annual challenge.

That is to say, letters of the two words—TOY SEASON—may be rearranged to form three short words that describe what it's like to hunt for just the right toys or gifts. Remember, this sentiment's to

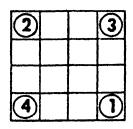
be expressed in three short words.

MOT SO EASY' WILL do IL

. FOUR FIT! How's it possible to place additional digits 1-4 in the diagram, below, so that each digit appears just once in each row across, down and diagonally?

Mrs Tyonia A. Brown, of Chicago, points out that one answer is possible. Let's see if you, like Mrs Brown, can find more than one way.

One way Across—2413, 1924, 3142, 6231 Another, se suggested by Mrs Brown Across—2143, 3412, 1234, 4321





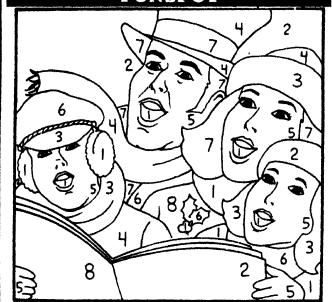




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least aix diff enose in drawing details between top and bottom pariels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Tessel is shorter. S. Culte are missing. 3. Bissoball bat is missing. Arm is moved. S. Sign is different. S. Antenna is missing.

FUNSPOT



FA-LA-LA! 'Tis a time for joyous song, and warm clothes and cold noses. Add colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. Brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Lt. purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

INNOVATE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points. Possible twosoms: Vain, note.

Satish Kumar Agrawal, Cuttack, reports:

"Recently the Rotary Club of Cuttack organised a quiz contest at the Rotary Hall. It was sponsored by Kinetic Engineering Ltd. Twelve teams were selected for the quarter-finals. After two rounds of six teams each where most of the questions were from The World This Week clippings and ads, six teams were finally selected for the semi-finals. The semifinals were exciting and there was a tough competition among the three-time Rotary quiz winning team of P. Rajendra and Ratna Rath and other teams that entered the final.

"In the final with exhilarating questions and amidst much applause the threetime champions emerged winners for the fourth time."

Subroto Kumar Nandi, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, writes:

'Once again we ISM-ites got the opportunity to see some excellent quizzing in our annual function, the Sco-Iomin Saturnalia. Terry O'Brien as the quiz master proved once again that a quiz can be real fun. His questions were both witty and interesting. There was a live round superbly performed by O'Brien's son Allen. In the initial stages the scoring was low, but in the final rounds, following the audio-visual round, the scoring picked up and BIT Sindri raced to finish first. ISM-B had been steady from the start and ended a close second followed by Cotton College, Guwahati."

"Please tell me sornething about I Ching," writes Palash Chatterjee, Calcutta 63.

I Ching is the ancient Chinese Book of Change, arguably the oldest complete book in the world, which has been used as a system of philosophy and for divination for thousands of years, certainly since before Confucius (551-479 BC). The basis of I Ching (sometimes spelt Yi King and pronounced ee'i-



11th Question: Why does the popular Eau de Cologne brand bear the number 4711? (Alok Chaudhuri, Dept of Geology, IIT Kharagpur)

Ans: Eau de Cologne has been made in Cologne's Glockengasse for 200 years

by the family of Ferdinand Muhiens. In 1794, during the French occupation of Cologne, Corporal Dupont and his comrades in the French Revolutionary Army had difficulty in finding their way through the narrow streets with odd-counding names around the famous Cathedral, and so they numbered the houses. The Muhiens house was numbered 4711 by Dupont. Hence the name of the popular brand.

ing) is that the whole of the universe and everything therein is a combination of the negative, Yin, and the positive, Yang. The main part of the book is comprised of 64 hexagrams or sections or oracles made up of six lines, some broken in the

middle (Yin lines), and the other unbroken (Yang lines). Each combination of lines has meaning, and the pattern is decided either by using yarrow stalks (a lengthy process) or by tossing three coins. If the coins fall with more 'heads' than 'tails', a

Yang line is indicated; and if there are more 'tails' than 'heads', a Yin line is formed. By this means, six lines are created forming a hexagram whose meaning can then be looked up.

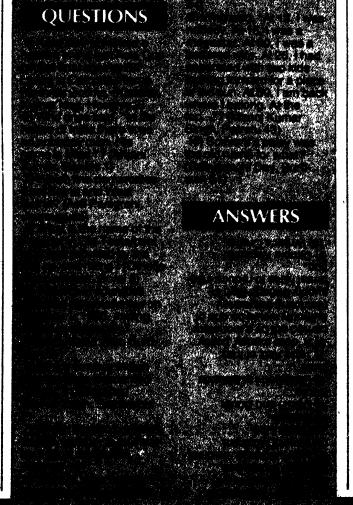
The remarkable anthess

The remarkable aptness and helpfulness obtained from the serious use of I Ching has been repeatedly remarked upon by those who persevere with the system. and it seems likely that the act of asking questions and interpreting the replies prepares the mind to enter a state similar to that reached in accepted forms of meditation. The creat psychologist, C.G. Jung, believed that the symbols and words contained in I Ching conveyed messages direct to the unconscious mind.

"Why are witches depicted riding on broomsticks?" asks Shantanu Das, Calcutta 14.

The broomstick was originally made from the stalk of the bottom plant. The broomstick or besom is particularly associated with witches who are said to have travelled astride broomsticks, flying through the air to their sabbaths (gatherings) though there is in fact a remarkably small number of witches on record as confessing to having done so. The idea probably arose from the fact that witches danced with a stick between their legs, jumping high into the air, and one convicted witch, Guillaume Edelin, said in 1453 that the Devil had given her a stick 45 cm long and a jar of ointment. She would grease the stick, put it between her legs, say, 'Go, in the Devil's name, go', and at once rise into the air and be carried to the sabbath. Today, when the flying of witches is regarded as having been hallucination, the broomstick survives as a symbol of magic in such performances as the Mummers' plays, the broomstick dance of the Fens, the broomstick wedding of the gypsies, and transformed into a wand, in modern witch covens.

Same and the second



COMICS

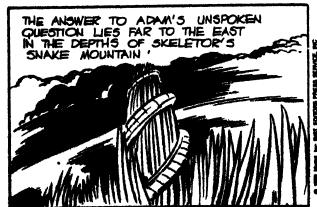














ARCHIE























THELOCKHORNS









GARFIELD By Jim Davis







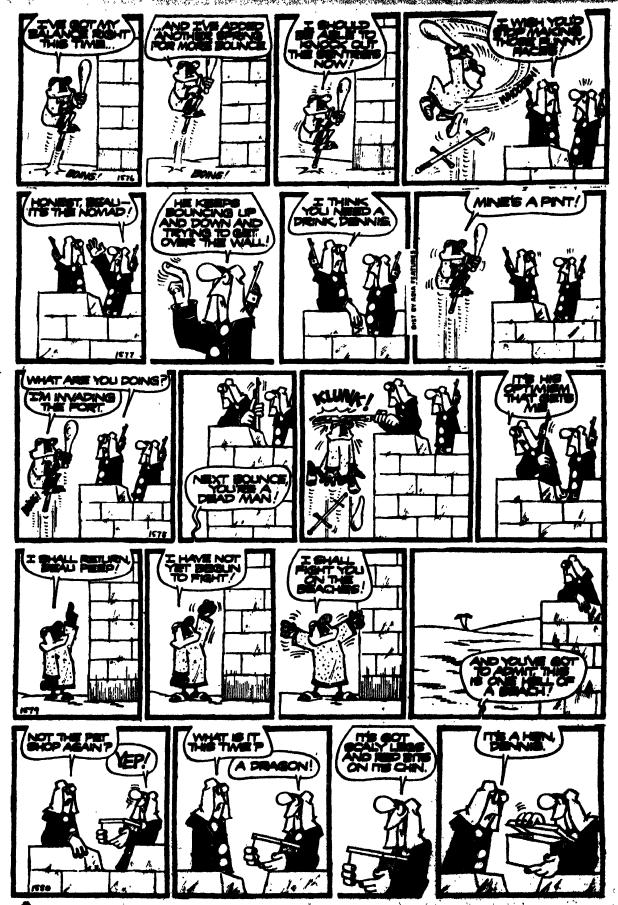








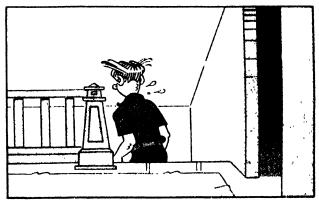








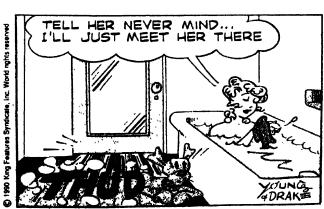












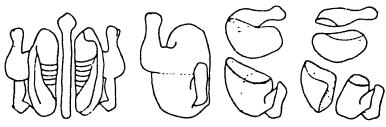
CURRY CURRY CURRY CURRY Ranjit Rai



Saffron Curry Chicken Casserole (Zafrani Murgi)

I am not quite sure if this dish went to Spain or came from Spain. The Spanish have a dish which resembles this in many ways. Here the saffron is predominant and other spices are minimal.

British	Metric	Ingredients	American		
1	1 chicken, large, jointed		1		
3 fl oz (½ cup)	75 mi	ghee or cooking oil	3 anb		
1 tsp	0.25 g	saffron	1 tsp		
2 tbsps	30 ml	milk	2 tosps		
		for the blender			
1 pt 300 ml		coconut milk	1½ cups		
5½ oz (1 cup)	165 g	yoghurt	i cup		
3	3	onions, boiled	3		
1½ tbsps	20 g	turmeric powder	1½ tosps		
i tsp	1 g	ginger powder	½ tsp		
tbsp	7.5 g	salt, to taste	½ tbsp		
1 tbsp	20 g	almond paste	1 tbsp		
1 tsp	2 g	chilli powder	1 tsp		



Normal chicken cut in 8 pieces for curry or casseroles



Serves 2-3

Cooking Time: 45-50 minutes

Method

Soak the saffron in warm milk and set aside.

Put all the remaining ingredients, except the chicken and ghee, in a blender and liquidise.

Heat the ghee in a heavy saucepan and stir fry the chicken on high heat until light brown.

Transfer to a heavy casserole and pour the liquidised masala on top. Cover and place in an oven on moderate heat for 30-40 minutes. Then add saffron and milk. Cover and return to the oven for another 10 minutes or until the chicken is done.

Do not remove the cover until you are ready to serve the casserole, because the saffron aroma will escape.

Should only be eaten with fluffy large-grained rice.

NOTE: Hand-crushed whole red chillies as garnish go very well.

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India

DON'T TEAR HER HAIR OUT.



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POST MORTEM

Tremiy Supports

While referring to your cover story, 'Crusader' (February 10), wherem an anti-dam activist, Meghnad Bhattacharya (himself imported from Japan), accuses development as "borrowed from the West", it may be mentioned that the recent 'ecology consciousness' among Indians is also imported.

Development has been in vogue since Independence. Numerous industries, hydel power and thermal projects were built on people's lands. Rehabilitation and compensation were, as usual, meagre, but since there were no patrons for environment then, the people also remained deprived. Now that ecology consciousness has become a trend in the West, we too have a lot of

environmentalists in our midst.

It must at least be ensured that the deprived people get their due compensation.

Prasun Chaudhri, Calcutta

I was thrilled to read the story on Medha Patkar The pams she has taken to ensure the welfare of the tribals should not go unrewarded. It is a matter of sheer guts for a woman to stand up for the cause of thousands of tribals

This problem will not be solved in courts or through government procedures. It is a matter of mass awakening and every cooperation must be given to Medha Patkar.

When any developmental work is done, why is it necessary to uproot thousands and submerge villages in water? It is sad

Medha Patkar: Woman with guts



that the pro-dam people are not able to understand the aftermath of such a big project.

Sandeep Dasgupta, Rourkela

■The government should review its project and consider Baba Amte's demand for smaller dams.

M.K. Damor,
Dhanbad (Bihar)

The cover story on Chandra Shekhar and Rany Gan dhı ('A Brief Affair', February 24) was interesting 1 think it is not a brief affair. but a hidden one. Both have a common enemy, the Bharatiya Janata Party So long as the BJP remains a strong Opposition, Chandra Shekhar, with the backing of Rajiv Gandhi, will continue as Prime Minister. There is no doubt about this hidden understanding between Chandra Shekhar and Rany Gandhi. Shovanial Bakshi, Calcutta

Debasish Sen's comments about Rabi Ghose and Vyjayanthimala Bali (Post Mortem, February 24) were astonishing. His assessment of Rabi Ghose is grossly incorrect; Satyajit Ray would hardly select an actor who indulges in "crude buffoonery" for his own films.

The validity of his criticism against Vyjayanthimala is also nullified by the very example he seeks to attack her by, namely, the solo ballet she performed recently. The programme more than proved her dancing prowess.

His letter only exhibits his lack of respect for two talented artistes who have earned accolades from a million others.

Reet Mukherjee, Calcutta

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The Telegraph

17 MARCH 1991



Dominique Lapierre, the author of the controversial City of Joy and other bestsellers, is back in the news with the filming of his book on Calcutta. A freewheeling interview

Piranhas have a bloodthirsty reputation, but is it fully deserved?

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A photofeature on the waterfront of Calcutta

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COVER STORY



DOMINQUE:

On a visit to Bhangar in South 24-Parganas



With wife, also named Dominique



spatter his blue derum shirt. A light breeze tugs at his thinning, tousled hair. His forehead, domed and dotted with beads of perspiration, Dominique Lapierre edges forward, hands stiffly folded in a namaste, emoying the adulation. On the roads wait the residents of Bhangar, men and women on different sides, but united in their resolve to give their benefactor a hero's welcome. As conch shells blow and Lapierre is showered with marigoid petals, a slender young woman stretches to garland the author.

"Hasso, hasso, didi (laugh, laugh, sister)," he gushes, his voice rising above the noise of happy confusion "It is so wonder ful it is fantastic. My heart is beating faster," says Lapierre, all Gallic exuberance and mid-morning excitement in accent-tinged English "It will take two hours if everyone garlands him," sighs Abdul Wahab, a social worker Lapierre refers to as "the light of the world"

Armidst the lush paddy fields, dotted with clumps of leafy banana and coconut trees is the Southern Health Improvement Society (SHIS) a starkly white-washed two-storeyed centre, sponsored by Lapierre The clinic, 35 km from Calcutta, treats 50,000 patients every year, including thousands suffering from tuberculosis Many patients carrying "Long Live Lapierre. Our Saviour" placards, are present at the roadside welcoming ceremony Fifty per cent of the royalties from the City of Joy which Lapierre thought would sell six copies (it sold six inillion), is don ated to different welfare organisations in the city including the SHIS at Bhangar and its two sister units in Sarberia and Basanti

An uncomfortable benefactor, Lapierre prefers to praise Wahab, the secretary of SHIS and his dozen tireless workers. It is easy to sit in Paris and write cheques. More vital is the day-to-day field work, the care and enthusiasm. And as Mother Teresa says. 'My efforts are a drop of water in an ocean of need. But if the drop was not there, the ocean would miss it.'

In the makeshift SHIS auditorium, dark and sweaty, the audience—a sprinkling of underwhelmed foreign journalists and local people, many of them unaware of their benefactor's identity—waits for Lapierre "The saheb is a doctor. He gives us medicine," declares Doud Ali Mollah, a farmer Many in the audience are tubercular and perhaps, even terminally ill "TB is the beginning of the cycle of misery The clinic goes to the root of the problem Thanks to the City of Joy royalties, we have the means to develop a centre to eradicate the plague of TB from the beautiful area of Bengal I have got more than I have been able to give. But you can be sure of one thing. I will do my best for you," he



The 'saviour' on his mission

Dominique Lapierre is

no stranger to
controversy. The
co-author of Freedom at
Midnight once again
finds himself in the eye
of a storm with the
filming of his City of Joy.
SRINJOY
CHOWDHURY met the
bestselling French
writer during his recent
visit to Calcutta

solemnly promises the patients

Over a dozen different institutions in the city depend on Lapierre's generosity "I am in love with Calcutta I am indebted to Calcutta I want to make Calcutta a better place to live in "

ove bloomed in the Fifties, and almost by accident "I was going around the world with \$100 in my pocket and my wife It was our honeymoon I was only 22 years old So one day (in April 1953), we flew into Dum Dum airport from Bangkok 'But love is not without its moments of misery As the doors of the creaky Dakota (DC-3) opened, a wave of white heat scorched the Lapierres "It was like standing before 50 hairdners the sun on the white-washed walls of Park Street was like molten lead hitting your eyes But there was so much life So much exuberence The city overwhelmed me I discovered that Calcutta had a special spirit, a vitality a will to survive, to beat all odds

Calcutta in the Fifues, before the scars

of militancy, the crush of overpopulation. the refugees with desolate eyes...the Lapierres spent three weeks in the city, walking the streets lit by the dim glow of dawn, and "observing the extraordinary religious fervour of Calcuttans. There was a festival every day...we would be invited to the theatre, to a concert. We wouldn't understand a word, but we saw the faces in the audience. They were rapt. The Bengali culture is rich, diversified-...there's more culture here than in Paris.

"Calcutta was the hub of an extraordinary exploration. We took a night train to Bhubaneswar and visited Puri and Konark. We went to Darjeeling and Sikkim. Yet the tourist offices unequivocally advised people to avoid Calcutta. Even today, every time you mention Calcutta, tourist offices in Delhi add a word of caution."

During the next 20 years Lapierre, a Paris Match reporter, patrolled the world's hot spots, notebook in hand, but never came to Calcutta. "It took 19 years to come back because life made it difficult. I was in the Soviet Union, in Algeria during the war of liberation, in Indo-China during the US involvement there. I came back in

1972. And it amplified my special attachment to India.'

Larry Collins and Lapierre were writing Freedom at Midnight. "We wanted to give Gandhi a special dimension. We wanted to reconstruct in minute details the moments between August 5 and August 20, 1947, when the Father of India fasted in a shabby house in Beliaghata and brought peace. It was an extraordinary experience to go to Beliaghata and meet the freedom fighters."

Still ringing in Lapierre's ears is the dismissal of Freedom at Midnight as 'pseudo-history' and 'pulp fiction in the guise of history'. Collins and Lapierre, said others, had unwittingly become mouthpieces of Mountbatten, the last heroic figure of the Partition still alive (Nehru, Gandhi, Patel and Jinnah were all dead by then). "It is not fair to say that this is Mountbatten's book as told to us. True, he was the only one alive. But we met Indira Gandhi, we met Pyarelal Nayar (Gandhi's secretary) who recorded every word and every moment, we met Patel's sister who always accompanied her brother, we met (Acharya) Kripalani. Sushila Navar (a doctor and Pyarelal's sister) told me that it was almost as if we had recorded Gandhi's own statements. Besides, we had no business being anyone's spokesmen. We had no blood involvement, no historical involvement or national involvement.' About the 'V.P.Menon incident' in the book, historians are unanimous: Collins and

Lapierre's version is inaccurate, a distortion of history. In Freedom at Midnight. Menon, at Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's request, asks Mountbatten to take over the country as the bonfires of communal frenzy rage. "The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister (Sardar Patel) are both very worried. They think it is essential for Your Excellency to come back," Menon, once Mountbatten's seniormost Indian aide, told the ex-Viceroy over the telephone, claim Collins

and Lapierre.

"Controversy is a much-liked word in India. Everything is controversial even if it is not," shoots back Lapierre, annoyance overcoming patience for once. "We have the facts. We were specially authorised to consult the Royal Archives by Queen Elizabeth. Menon's emergency mission was not a surrender, a sign of weakness, but a gesture of strength, of inner courage. The Indian leaders were dedicated men. They were really saying, 'We spent all our time in your jails. We did not learn to rule a country.' They did not say, 'No, I have become Prime Minister, I know everything.' To go back to the colonisers and say, 'Return for a few days' takes courage...They wanted the best possible advice. No one ever imagined the slaughter after Partition, the riots, the bloodlet-



ting..."

Despite the Partition and its problems, the transfer of power was a "moment of greatness", says Lapierre. "As a Frenchman, I will say that we didn't learn from that in Indo-China. In Algeria, we fought a lost war. Even the Portugese didn't learn the right lessons in Angola and Mozam-

bique."
"The only Englishmen killed in India were by tigers during hunts," notes Lapierre, a ghost of a smile playing on his lips. "Go to the cemeteries. Look at the gravestones. Englishmen died of cholera: they were never killed by chowkidars who wanted to be terrorists." India honours its past, never obliterates it, never disfigures it, he says. "You have the Victoria Memorial here. There's a King's Road in Delhi, a statue of King George VI in a public place in Bangalore... It is fantastic to see Indians visit a monument built for the glory of the colonialists. Can you imagine a De Gaulle monument in Hanoi or in Algiers:

The state of the s

After spending two glorious years in India (working on Freedom at Midnight), Lapierre wanted to 'show his gratitude to the Indian people, to do some-thing that Gandhiji would have approved " With part of the Freedom at Midnight royalties, he founded Udayan, a home for children of lepers, at Barrackpore "This gave my wife (who shares the same name and a passion for India) a new family of 200 children " Many of the children came from a bustee in Howrah from Pilkhana, from the City of Joy We were overwhelmed by these extraordinary people—people with imagination, courage, and the power to celebrate I told myself that I was going to write the story of the people of Pikha na I would be their voice

Lapierre's publishers were expecting another grandiloquent book a South American epic like a pop General In His Labyrinth or a history of China—a Freedom at Midnight with a Manchurian accent "And I gave them a story of a group of people living with cockroaches and rats I was ready to use my own money to publish the book I wanted my pen to be a witness City of Joy is a story of love, of courage of friendship and solidarity. It is a message to the world. No one asked for anything while I was in Calcuita. People only gave.

When the Lapierres left, they took their gifts from the people of the bustee with them "We had 57 kgs of excess luggage

But the word that I carried back with me was ananda or happiness "Lapierre claims that he had no intention of selling Third World penury to the West "I had no plan to glorify poverty I wrote it with my heart, never knowing that the book would sell six million copies "Letters inundated his local post office after The City of Joy was published 'I got one lakh, fifty seven thousand letters. They had to hire extra postmen to handle my mail'

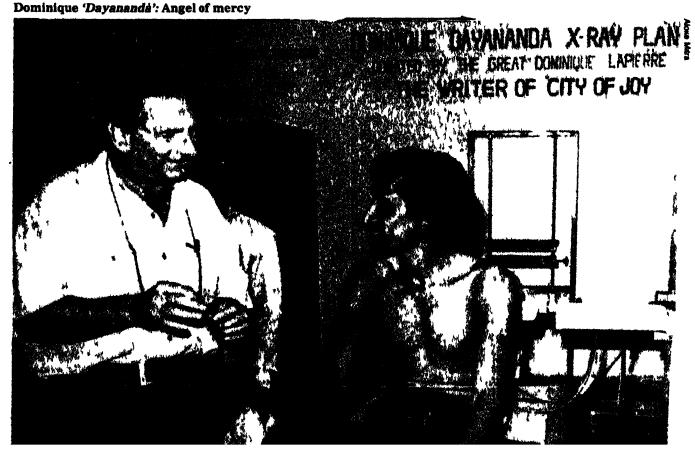
The City of Joy has inspired another major work by Lapierie Beyond Love, the story of AIDS and its victims. In the City of Joy I met people who were doing things for other people. This has changed my perspective. Now I don't want to write about men of destruction men like Manuel Noteiga or the Colombian cocaine cartel I want to write about heroes, silent do gooders we should be proud of '

As mankind faces a great medical challenge, Lapierre is profiling the men and women who may become the "saviours of humanity" "This is the story of scientists and social workers, doctors and drug users. This is the story of compassion, of despair and the search for hope" And India, observes Lapierre, is coming to the West's aid "Mother Teresa put me on the right track. She opened the home for AIDS patients in Greenwich Village, New York.

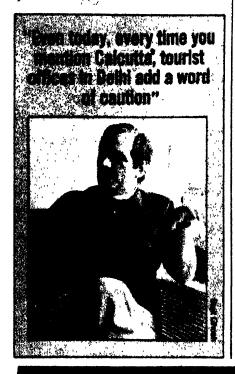
Lapierre s relations with the Left Front

once extremely cordial have soured "The Mayor, Mr Kamal Kumar Basu and about a 150 councillors organised a reception for me three years ago. And Mr Basu made a speech saying that I had carried the message of Calcutta's vitality to the world They even gave me two medals 1 was the CPI(M)'s hero In fact Basu called Lapierre one of Calcutt's best friends' and a man who has seen through the dirt, squalor and poverty to feel its pulse and sense its vibrance. Why a man who was thanked for spreading the message of love and hope is being criticised as the author of a notorious and hateful novel' by state information minister. Bud dhadev Bhattacharva is not clear and Lapierre himself tactfully chooses to say no more than a terse no comment

Even between Reland Joffe the director of the film. The City of Joy and Lipierre there is a studied coolness. I after Kowalski the angel of the Pilkhana slum is missing in the movie. I don't want to make a film on Catholicism. Joffe had said earlier. There are also a number of major changes. "There are bound to be changes in the film it is a different medium after all. I will be happy as long as the spirit is the same. People who haven't read the book will see the film. It will make money If even a part of that is ploughed back into the city, I will be very happy." Lapierre says diplomatically.



Lapierre ended a successful partnership with co-author Larry Collins, an American, to write the *City of Joy*. "The book could have been only one man's experience. But if we find a good contemporary theme, I would like to do another book with Larry." For their previous books, both authors had



done the research and interviewing, before sitting down separately to put the book together, Lapierre writing in French and Collins in English.

Besides Freedom at Midnight, Lapierre and Collins have written four books: Or I Will Dress You in Mourning, O Jerusalem, Is Paris Burning? and more recently, The Fifth Horseman, their only novel. "The Fifth Horseman is really a piece of 'fiction'. Gaddafi was only a pretext. Before we began writing the book, we asked ourselves one question: 'What would happen if some dictator with full financial backing wanted an atomic weapon?' We did some factual research. What if Gaddafi decided to smuggle a bomb into New York City. How does nuclear blackmail work?"

Another dictator Lapierre has written about is the man who picked up the phone from Berlin in 1944 and asked, 'Is Paris burning?' Adolf Hitler had wanted Lapierre's city burnt. "Living in Paris during the occupation was a vivid experience. It will be printed in my mind for the rest of my life. It was 52 months of blackouts and food-restrictions. We could be arrested any time." Lapierre will also remember the liberation of Paris. "When I saw the first GI, I ran towards him. I only knew one word; so I said, 'chewing gum'. And the GI gave me a box of candy." Lapierre was only a schoolboy in 1944. But he will not forget the nights in the air-raid shelters. "Apart from two occasions, Paris was spared by the bombers. But Paris was



bristling with anti-aircraft guns." Lapierre will always remember the liberation of Paris. He may also remember the morning in Bhangar. And he may remember the

message on a banner hung in the darkened

SHIS auditorium. It said: "Thank you

Dominique-da. You are our saviour.

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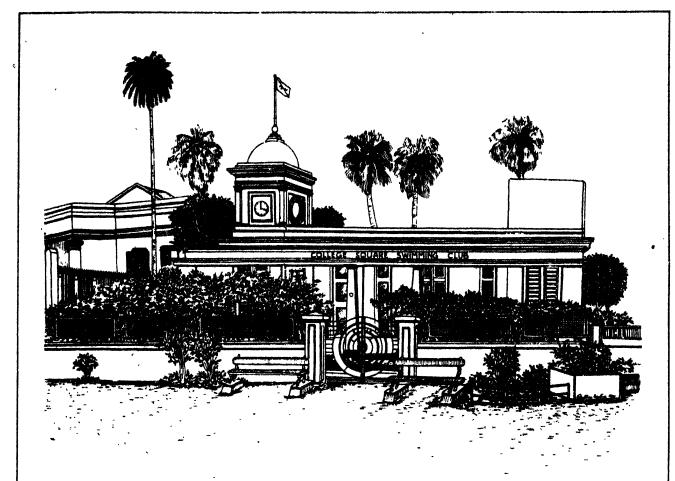
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COLLEGE SQUARE SWIMMING CLUB



The College Square Swimming Club, which has produced many a swimming talent, was founded by 17 members in 1917 with Satish Ranjan Das, MLC, as its president. The club house was built on the north-east corner of the College Square tank in 1927 at a cost of Rs 8,328. It was designed by city architect Hathway, who personally supervised its construction. Industrialist G.D. Birla was then president of the club, an office he held from 1921 to 1932.

The construction of a separate filtered water pool for children was later sponsored by M.N. Dastur & Co. In 1973-74, the wooden diving

board and platform were modernised with funds provided by the Birla House and Bhuwalka Jankalyan Trust.

The name of College Square was changed to Vidyasagar Udyan on October 18, 1979. But it is still popularly known as Gol Dighi. According to Sukumar Sen, the word 'Gol' (round) originated not from the tank's shape but due to the growth of a particular type of weed called Gol (akin to 'Hogla'). However, the noted stage actor, Sisir Kumar Bhaduri, had refuted Dr Sen's argument, stating that the tank was indeed circular in shape. Bhaduri's contention was corroborated by the maps of Major Schalch and Tassin, printed in

1825 and 1833, respectively. The pool is said to have got its present square shape sometime around 1912-13.

The club has produced a number of Olympians like D.D. Mulji, Durga Das, Kedar Shaw, Sambhu Saha and Dr Bijoy Kumar Burman. Another prominent member, Ganesh Das, captained the Indian waterpolo team at the Delhi Asiad in 1951. Besides various social activities the club has instituted an annual award for the best Bengal swimmer in the men's and women's groups. At present it has over 1.200 members, more than 60 per cent of whom are children.

CRASH COURSE

head of you, you will see the Howrah Bridge...this is a famous example of a cantilever bridge...it is often asked in quizzes, 'How many nuts and bolts does Howrah Bridge have?' Actually it has none, it is rivetted..." The sleek steel lines of the bus glides through the mess of trucks and thelas, its progress punctuated by Nikon clicks and flashes. Pink and white faces peer out of the plate glass windows and are peered back at in turn.

In front of the coach, almost permanently attached to the public address system, sits the tour guide. "The ground floor of the National Library houses 15 kms of stacks of books... readers can have free access to 10,000 reference books..."

The tourist guide is a part of every important holiday. Part of the public buildings, the monuments, the art galleries, waving fans, flapping guidebooks. "In 1803, the Marquis of Wellesley, who was an impetuous man, ordered the building of a magnificent palace to house the Governor General in Calcutta..." They deliver facts about places in an unceasing monotone. They deliver history and culture suitably reconstituted and order crocodiles of people in and out of buses. They trail them up and down stairs and through galleries, dictate their lunchbreaks and their hours of education...

For most tourists their words encapsulate a city and its culture and flesh out the memories of photograph albums.

"With a view to propagating healthy film culture the government has set up the film centre known as Nandan. Soon we will have Satyajit Rays in every para of Calcutta..." These people, with their never exhausted patter and their seemingly endless knowledge about the banyan tree in the Botanics, the number of rivets in Howrah Bridge or the mudras in Bharat Natyam, do not spring up overnight. It takes a lot of learning and on-the-job experience to become a tota pakhi or a tape recorder of instant facts.

The Government of India tourist office began a course for tourist guides about 20 years ago. The course requires no real qualification beyond a graduate's degree, a An jana Basu on the sights and frights you encounter when you decide to go places with tourist guides

fluency in English and an interest in people and places. Would-be tourist guides are interviewed on these subjects and then enrolled in a course which was first three months long and which has now dwindled to two.

For five days a week, candidates are grilled on shipping, shopping, art, architecture, dance, drama and any other aspect of India that might come to mind. The courses are taken by department heads from universities or by other specialists in their respective subjects, and are often accompanied by slides or films. After the course is over, a three-hour written and an oral examination follow. "When we passed, they threw a party for us at the Grand and handed us our identity cards."

It is a red embossed piece of pasteboard with a picture stuck on it that means a tourist guide is registered in the files of the Government of India and the West Bengal tourism departments. The card is recognised the Indian at Museum, the Victoria Memorial and at various other tourist spots unquestioningly and unhesitatingly. Names and addresses of these card bearers are also given out to all the travel agents and to the travel desks of the five star hotels. Then there follows a period of breathless anticipation accompanied by much running around from office to desk to file in the hope of getting assignments.

Quite often, the first few assignments are honorary or complimentary. Leading around a guest of the Government of India tourist office or ITDC, usually a travel writer from Thailand or a photographer from Italy. In Bombay, guides are given assignments by rotation. In Calcutta, out-

side the government circles, it appears to depend more on rapport, travel agents have their favourite guides, or lists of those in demand by tourists, people who have managed to put more life into the three hours around Calcutta than the rest. For most, there is the obligatory ITDC city tour of Calcutta, which takes up the whole day and which is guaranteed to give a guide at least two assignments a month, at the lucrative rate of all the heads in the bus plus extras.

A lot of learning happens from assignment to assignment. "You see, they taught us everything on India, but nothing in depth about Calcutta. I had to learn it by myself." The surface knowledge occasionally causes problems. Each ITDC and West Bengal tourism department tour consists of several set points at a particular place, with an allotted time span for each of the points. "So I took this Russian group to the Botanics. The rule there is Banyan Tree—you know, the great one—pagla gachh—branching palm and Palm



House. About 15 minutes for the whole place with some lingering time in the Palm House. Unfortunately, the Russians weren't satisfied with 15 minutes. They kept asking me about this tree and that other one and I'd finished my repertoire and didn't know a thing more. Fortunately, they had a botanist who knew a few, but they were furious with me and kept scolding me for the whole of the half day that we spent there...'

A lot of guides drop out of the business by failing to renew their cards after their second year of guiding. Most of them complain that it lacks satisfaction as a career and that the rewards are hardly worth the effort. Which is why the majority of tourist guides are women who find that the part time nature of the job suits them admirably. Though more are many men who combine quiring with other,

more paying professions and are put down on their printed forms with our names and addresses. There are rates for half day shifts and rates for full day shifts. You work out your fees according to your assignments, you suprait your bill, and then the trouble begins. It s West Bengal tourism department pr *hree times a year. Once in Mar once just before the Pujas : with great difficulty and much in February or March. Travel as .5 days to a month to pay and ces about a month. On paper, we earn but during the season, we're far too ra-"d to be able either to put in our bills a collect anything. And no one wants to pay you unless you keep reminding them.

Poreign language guides appear to be the only ones able to make a living out of guiding. Special three-month foreign language courses are arranged for these guides by the Government of India tourist office, through the consulates. But, in spite of the courses, there are only two official French guides, two German, two Russian and one Spanish. There is, however, no shortage of Japanese language guides, though in the case of Japanese, tourists prefer guides with degrees straight out of Tokyo.

Calcutta is high on the Japanese tourist map because it is the entry point to the world of the Buddha and places like Sarnath, Bodh Gaya and Varanasi. Calcutta is also the entry point for the erotic interests of Khajuraho. Japanese speaking guides from Calcutta very often accompany their tour groups all over India and in three

Guides complain that the Japanese can be verv difficult and are prone to ask questions like. "Do indian women wear panties under their saris

months earn enough to take the rest of the year very easy. Despite the financial factor, guides complain that the Japanese can be very difficult and are prone to ask questions like, "Do Indian women wear panties under their saris?"

A lot of foreign language groups arrive equipped with their own interpreters, so that English is all a guide needs to be able to escort them. Such groups, however, also arrive equipped with their own preconceived notions of what Calcutta should be and what they want to see. One Italian group with a French translator simply wanted beaucoup des femmes and were promptly handed back to the tourism department by an irate woman guide. A French group insisted on a sari-winding demonstration in a moving bus.

The season is from mid-September to March for foreign tourists and from mid-September to mid-June for domestic visitors. Then the tourist trade shuts down with the rains for July, August and part of September. The official word in tourism circles is that 1991 will be a bad year for tourism with the Gulf crisis crunching down on tourists from Europe and America. But tourist guides appear to be optimistic. There is always enough work, they say; someone wanting to make a documentary film or write a book.

Most tourist guides prefer the offbeat visitors to the groups, even though coach guides are better paid. Stuck in the front of a coach with a mike, they say, gives you very little chance to interact. Whereas accompanying three people in a car on a whole day tour can be a very different story. You meet the other cultures face to



face, so to speak

Visitors often have the same idea An old American gentleman rang up the ITDC office and asked for someone to talk to for two or three hours and walk across the Howrah Bridge with Though there was some initial doubt as to his credentials and his intentions, a guide was despatched. The gentleman turned out to be a surgeon who spent his holidays offering his services free of charge in Third World countries.

Everyone has his favourite offbeat visitor story An Italian photographer was taking pictures of Indian weddings. He went to photograph the marriage of a police officer's daughter. His guide who had not accompanied him to the wedding, found him waiting for her in the hotel lobby the next day, barefroot. His only pair of shoes had been stolen at the wedding Instead of a morning spent among the

Instead of a morning spent among the monuments, they spent it in the arcades of shoe shops. The same photographer also spent six hours in the flower market just to get one shot and appeared to have a remarkable ability to blend into his surroundings.

"He took me to the burning ghat -Nim tola of all places I told him women weren t

What it takes to be a golde is a certain brightened certain heightened perspective. One gentleman, styled the 'best guide in Asia', is famous for lines of dialogue like: "Ganga. To you, it looks like a dirty river. To me, it is my mother"

supposed to walk into burning ghats and stayed put in the car. I thought he d get beaten up by the crowd but no, he came out triumphantly having used up a roll of film.'

Guiding courses are held whenever the Itourist office feels there is a shortage of guides and about 30 are taken into every course. Previously there was no againmit, but recently one has been imposed

to complicate things further Guiding is fast becoming one of those things you do in between college and a meaningful career There is a certain lack of commitment to the profession and it carries with it the same dangers as air hostessing or modelling. No one has ever heard of an old model or a middle-aged air hostess. Once the gloss fades, guides find themselves respectable jobs and opt thankfully out of the Victoria Memorial-Planetarium-Museum routine They do not write books on guiding or issue treatises on art and culture, though a few might find themselves mentioned in acknowledgement pages or film credits

What it takes to be a guide is a certain drama, a certain heightened perspective One gentleman, styled 'the best guide in Asia is famous for lines of dialogue like Ganga. To you it looks like a dirty river. To me it is my mother? "We giggled when we heard him say it," said two of his juniors, 'but that's the kind of Oriental mysticism that foreigners like." And the fact that he doesn't have a single preposition to his English is unimportant."

Guiding is the ability to come out with lines like "The Ochterlony Monument is the biggest lingam in Calcutta and go on to embloider that startling fact with stories of Ochterlony in Moghul costume out riding with his 13 native mistresses on the maidan. A gift for catching the attention and holding it long enough to make a point English or the lack of it doesn't matter. Fluency does

A guide has to be able to deal with upsets without turning a hair. A West Bengal tourism bus to Vishnupui once turned turtle mercifully without damaging any of its student passengers. The guide confronted with no bus and the prospect of anxious parents waiting in Calcutta, commandeered a fleet of lornes and managed to get everyone safely home even though it was well after midnight.

'Or take those all night Puja tours After a little while you realise that a few people have booked on it simply because they we been unable to get hotel accommodation for the night. They get down at one or two pandals and then they simply settle down to sleep.

There is always a demand for guides regardless of tourism slumps or declining trade. There is always someone interested, willing to write an obscure piece on the City of Joy or the Black Hole or willing to interview Mother Teresa. There are no streets of guides with their cards as there are in places like Khajuraho that live on tourism. But for the few people who drift into it and stay with it, there is always a need. Even if it is only to pick up a mike and say, "Calcutta was once called the City of Palaces. On your left you will notice a famous example of neo-palladian architecture."



CURRY CURRY CURRY O Ranjit Rai

Red Curry (Roghan Josh): Kashmir

There are so many versions of roghan josh and so many interpretations of the words roghen and josh that one is always circumspect to say that this is the 'real thing'!



British	Metric	Ingredients	American	
21 lb	1 kg	meat, preferably mutton, goulash cut	2 <u>1</u> lb	
7 fl oz($1\frac{1}{3}$ cups)	200 ml	ghee	7 cup	
	duri	ng-cooking masala 1		
3½ oz	100 g	yoghurt	i cup	
1 tbsp	7.5 g	ginger, finely chopped	1 tbsp	
2½ tsps	12.5 g	salt, to taste	2½ tsps	
2	2	cinnamon 1" (2.5 cm)	2	
2	2	bay leaves (tejpat)	2	
1 tbsp	6g	chilli powder	1 tbsp	
6	6	cloves	6	
5	5	cardamoms, large brown	5	
6	6	6		
	durl	ng-cooking masala 2		
1 tsp	5 g	garlic paste	1 tsp	
	dur	ing-cooking masala 3		
1 tbsp	10 g	poppyseed, soaked & ground to a paste with a little water	1 tbsp	
2 taps	5.5 g	cumin powder	2 tapa	
2 tsps	40	coriander powder	2 tsps	
1 thep	7g	Hungarian red paprika 1 or <i>ratan jyot</i> (2 sticks)		
3 fi oz (‡ cup)	oz (‡ cup) 75.ml water			
		finishing mesele	-	

According to Persian cooks and scholars both words *roghan* and *josh* are pure Persian. *Roghan* means any kind of cooking fat, and *josh* means to augment by or accelerate or inspire.

Serves 3-5

Cooking Time: 40-45 minutes

Method.

Put the meat along with the duringcooking masala 1 in ghee. Cover and let cook on slow fire till the water from the meat evaporates. Turn the meat with a spatula or a large spoon and sprinkle a little of the garlic water, the duringcooking masala 2 and keep stir frying. Repeatedly add the garlic water till meat is dry and reddish brown. The cooking pan should be heavy-bottomed to avoid sticking or burning during cooking. Now add the during-cooking masala 3 and 3 fl oz (75 ml or 3/8 cup) of water and again stir fry taking special care not to make the meat hard. This can be tested with a toothpick. By now the ghee which will be reddish, after adding ratan jyot, will have come to the top.

Transfer to a white serving bowl and add the *finishing masala*. Serve with rice or any Indian bread.

NOTE: Traditionally one uses asafoetida in water instead of garlic paste. Kashmiris will never use garlic. Asafoetida is very difficult to control, due to the fickle nature of the asafoetida gum which can vary from innocuous to the very strong. If one is not experienced in the organoleptic control of asafoetida, the dish can either become bland or inedible. If using ratan jyot remove the pieces before serving.

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India

PANORAMA

Whith a final dizzying twist our dug out cince squirted through the rapids and into a quiet Ligoon Safe at last. I thought

We were on the Yarapa River a meandering tributary of the Amazon on the first lep of an expedition into the deep jungle. I sugged back in my seat, sweaty and exhausted. One hand flopped over the gunwale and trailed in the tercolonicd water.

I wouldn't do that said the guide Ricardo Ruiz He held up his own left thumb a nasty slice near its tip Piranha he said apologetically

Piranha The Guaran Indian word for the fierce little fish that inhabits much of South America has become an English synonym for ferocity and greed. It is the fish with an attitude

While not entirely dispelling this image recent recent has shown pirinh is may not be as bloodthusty as people think Some pirinhas even become vegetarians at certain time of the year.

Storics of pirinha violence have thrilled and hornfied people beyond South America since the 16th century, when the first Spanish explorers began sending back reports of strange wildlife. Pirinhas reputed attraction to blood lends a gruesome quality to many accounts.

Fame d. British army surveyor. Percy Fawcett tells of a Bolivian soldier who fell from his patrol boat into a pir inha infested pool and found that his heavy boot prevented him from climbing back in. After much screaming, the man become quiet.

When rescuers finally reached him and pried his hands from the gunwale they found his entire lower torso had been stripped to the bone. They theorised that piranhas had been attracted by his red trousers.

Any of it is possible—says University of Florida zoologist Leo G. Nico referring to lurid accounts he has heard of piranha attacks. They have the potential to do that with their teeth and strong jaws.

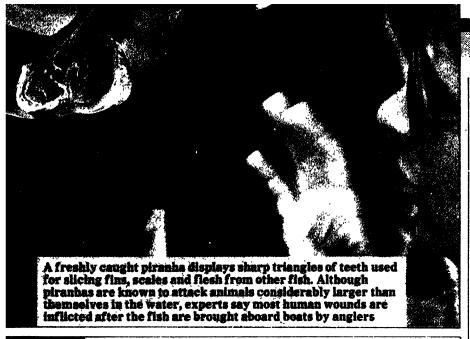
But Nice and other scientists who study piranhas say the fish's ugly reputation is largely undeserved. I don't disregard occasional stories of attack says Nico. "But I think they are really rare. I compare piranhas with dogs. They have the potential to do a lot of damage, but in most cases they rever do..."

Unlike dogs however piranhas have been little studied and are poorly under stood. Even the number of piranha species is disputed. Antonio, Machado Allison of the University of Venezuela and William Fink of the University of Michigan have counted ome 30 species and are finding still more.

Dietary habits of piranha vary tremendously Species with longer, more streamlined bodies and pointed snouts are

WATCH OUT, WE'RE MAD (AS HELL)!





Blunt, buildog profiles and red bellies identify these piranhas as belonging to a ferocious, flesh-eating species. Pores along their bodies enable them to detect distant disturbances. Endowed with good vision and a well-developed sense of smell, they often ambush other fish swept into an area by a heavy current

satisfied just to nip at fins and scales of other fish. But the blunt-headed varieties with building jaws and rcd bellies dine on whole fish, some at a single gulp.

Adult piranhas range in length from nine inches to about 20 inches. Like sharks and billy goats, they are not discriminating diners. Researchers have found in their stomachs fragments of birds, snakes, small mammals and even a young caiman—a South American alligator.

Some piranhas dine on their own young. Piranhas are called "caribes" in Venezuelan, recalling the cannibalistic Indians encountered by Christopher Columbus in the West Indies.

Some species rely on eating seeds and fruit that drop into the water from trees during rainy seasons, when streams and forests are flooded. Such a food link rein forces the global campaign to preserve South America's rain forests.

"The forests are important to fish populations, even those like piranhas that are typically carnivores," says Nico. "This is especially important in areas where the water is nutrient poor. For small fishes, trees and other vegetation play an important part as a food base."

The presence of blood has not been shown scientifically to excite piranhas. And native people, while cautious, are not terrified of entering the water. Indians, including small children, routinely bathe and swim in places where piranhas are bound to be present.

Brazilian researcher Ivan Sazima, who has observed piranhas underwater, notes they are scavengers. He theorises that many horror stories have sprung from the discovery of corpses of people who died from other causes and then were partly eaten by piranhas.

Piranhas do attack live animals, however. They have good vision, a well-developed sense of smell and a system of pores along their body that allows them to detect distant disturbances in water and pinpoint their direction.

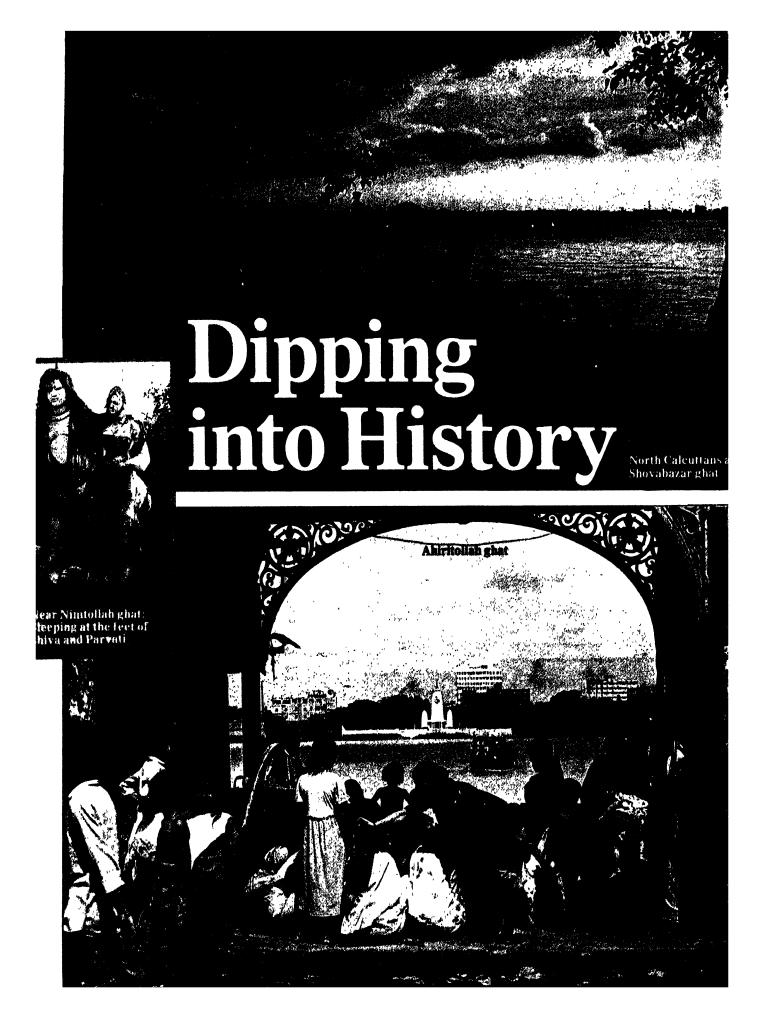
And they are opportunistic. They often gather in water beneath trees where aquatic birds are nesting and instantly converge on anything dropped, including nesting materials, food and an occasional bird.

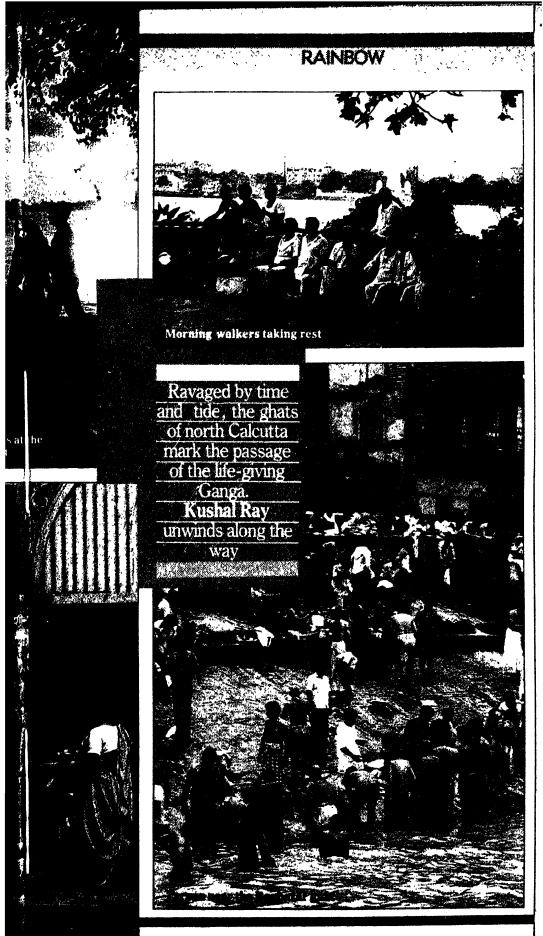
Nico reports that a young cormorant seen falling from its nest was pulled under by piranhas while trying to swim to safety. Not even a feather was left.

But Nico says most humans are wounded after piranhas have been hooked by fishermen and brought aboard boats. Fried piranha is prized in many parts of South America for its delicate, flaky white flesh.

"If we were keeping score, piranhas could say human-infested shores are among the most dangerous in the world," Nico says. "We bite them more than they bite us."

(National Geographic News Service)





the ghats of north Calcutta evoke a sense of nostalgia. Standing decrepit, they show a face of the city that is fast vanishing. From the days of Gangayatra when dying people were taken to the riverside, to today's serpentine queues of 'Posta' lorries on the adjacent Strand Road, these ghats have witnessed the passage of time through a unique kaleidoscope, showing how the Ganga has sustained the people of old Calcutta both materially and spiritually for so many years.

Most of these ghats came up after 1820 when the course of the river drifted, facilitating the construction of Strand Road. The road was completed in 1831, replacing a

number of docks.

The Nimtollah and Kashi Mitra ghats are the main burning ghats in north Calcutta. The Annapurna, Bagbazar and Ahiritollah ghats, are the main bathing spots. Along the two km stretch between the Bagbazar and Ahiritollah ghats stand a number of prominent ghats including Kumartuli and Shovabazar. Dotted with small temples, this stretch is an abode of lesser-known god-desses—their worshippers at some time or other chose to leave their idols on the ghats instead of immersing them. According to Radha Raman

Mitra, the noted Calcutta researcher, there are 40 ghats of the Ganga in Calcutta. Many of them were named after their founders—like Naba Krishna Deb and Durga Charan Mukherjee, prominent persons of their time. But now most of the ghats stand dilapidated, while many have ceased to exist. But the surviving ones still fight to keep alive the spirit of the river and the tradition of the city.



Their friendship is barely a year and a half old, but the 10 gentlemen who meet everyday at the Lakes and sit on the two adjacent benches are so attached to one another that if any one of them does not turn up for two successive mornings, he is sure to receive a phonecall by midmorn and someone may visit him by the evening, too.

The ages of the 10 men vary from 55 to 68 and except three of them, they are leading retired lives. They were employed in banks, railways, central government offices or mercantile establishments. They have put in their lives' savings and superannuation benefits into various—bank and post office schemes and saved themselves the worries of funding the family budget.

Their daughters are happily married,

Saibal Chakraborty

time for the 9 pm TV serial to begin, they take leave of one another.

Obviously, Banerjee, Duttagupta and others in the group have plenty of time at their disposal, but having lived through it for eight to 10 years, they have learnt to make the best of it. They avoid the boredom of staying at home, at least as far as they can help it. A good part of the morning is spent at the Lakes, they visit friends

and relatives in the afternoons and make occasional trips to Digha or Puri with likeminded companions. Those with a greater zeal to travel, like Probhat Burman, make it to Hardwar or Amarnath. Robin Dutta of Kasba, a bachelor, spends a month at the Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry each year.

The members of this group are now familiar with one another's tastes and

Suns t

observes a
group of ten old men,
regulars at the Lakes,
who have decided to
make the twilight of their
lives a beautiful moment

sons well placed. The major struggles of life are, for them, over. Their duties now comprise the renewing of the milk card by the 10th of every month or escorting the granddaughter to the kindergarten school, three blocks away. Those who do not live with their sons still have to do the daily marketing themselves, generally on the way back from the Lakes.

So, Sankar Mukherjee, Asis Mitra and Nabani Duttagupta have plastic bags neatly folded inside their trouser pockets when they go for their morning walks. They pick up fresh vegetables, fish and seasonal fruits from the market on the way back home. The meeting in the morning, however, is more important. Around 5 am, they appear from different directions and after each one has had his fixed round of walk or free hand exercise, he sits down on the bench till 6.30 am and discusses anything from mustard oil to Maneka Gandhi.

Two of these 10 men find the Lakes so endearing that they visit it in the evenings also. But then, there is a different spot to sit on, and a different set of people to chat with. They remain there till as late as 8 pm, with the evening breeze getting more pleasant with every hour. Just before it is



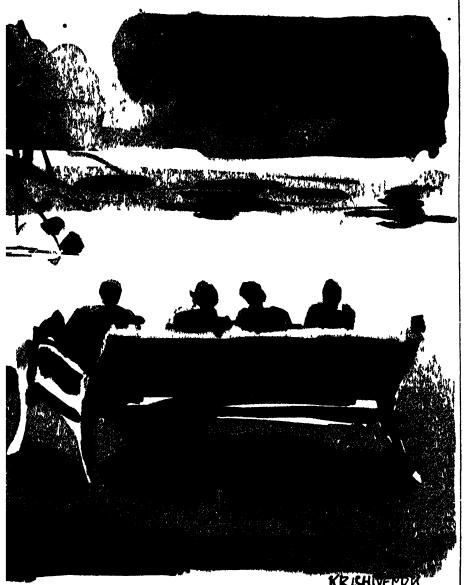
habits Satish Manna and Subhas Roy who are neighbours at Chakraberia are the first to arrive in the morning and occupy the two adjacent benches. These have been freshly painted by a good hearted Lions Club member. Salil Chakraborty who is finicky about doing all work in time, leaves punctually at 6 am so that he can go back and have his morning tea with his wife. Asis Mitra goes out for his

morning walk only after his tea and shave. All these 10 men were born in this city brought up and worked here too but except for Sankar Mukherjee and Asis Mitrathey had never met one another before they got acquainted at the Lakes towards the end of 1988. Now the intimacy between them is so deep that the one who absents himself on a particular day faces a hostile reception the next day!

On days like August 15, Poila Baisakh or Mahalava, every member of the group contributes a modest sum of Rs 10 each and they organise a tea party for themselves. Asis Mitra, Bhabhani Baner jee and Sankar Mukher jee take a leading part in organismy these parties. Mitra and Banerjee arrange for the hot singharas from a confectioner at Southern Avenue.

Sankar Mukhenec travels from Billy

Boulevard



gunge station taking the early morning tram from Rashbehari crossing to collect chhanar julpi from his favourite Mistanna Bhander Nabanibabu wakes up his young daughter in law a doctorate in Bengali lyrics at five in the morning to prepare the tea for the grand party. Around six o clock they start arriving at their regular spot from different directions, each carrying his own share of foodstuff and Nabanibabu with the teal in two giant flasks.

After the refreshments and tea are served Robin Dutta who twice unsuccessfully auditioned for Akashvani, renders a Lagore song and that brings the party to an end Compliments are paid to Mitra and Banerice for preparing the budget in such a mainer that there would be sufficient to spare and distribute to 'outsiders' and take some of the stuff home, too. The party is over by seven

Days pass on like this Bandh calls by political parties, change of governments of the horrors of the Stoneman—nothing except a heavy shower in the morning can stand in the way of the meeting of these 10 men.

They continue talking about one another's health rising prices their first love or the wife's gout. Then, suddenly, their peace is disturbed. Deben Ganguly, a retired section officer of S.E. Railway and an old member of the group has suffered his second heart attack in the same year. Nabam Duttagupta, tacky to have his telephone working keeps in touch with Ganguly's eldest son and keeps his friends at the Lakes informed every morning.

Then, one day, the bad news comes
The nine men look grim and speechless
The air tends to be heavy and the trees
look as if they are praying for someone's
soul A portion of the two benches lies
unoccupied They wait for their mornings
to be the same again



Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Daddy: Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 274259)—noon.

A film by Mahesh Bhatt, starring Anupam Kher, Pooja Bhatt, Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Sadashiv Amrapurkar. The music is by Bappi Lahin.

• Fateh: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383), Prabhat (Chuttaranjan Avenue; 390762), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666), Rupali (Ashutosh Mookerjee Road; • Hum: Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue; 274259), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 484808)—3 shows.

Directed by Mukul S. Anand, the film stars Amitabh Bachchan along with Rajnikant, Govinda, Kimi Katkar, Deepa Sahi, Shilpa Shirodkar, Danny, Anupam Kher and Kader Khan. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Jaan Ki Kasam (A): Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Purabi (M.G. Road; 350680)—4 shows.

Directed by Sushil Malik and with music by Nadeem Shravan, the chief attractions of this film are Krishna, debutante Saathi Ganguly, Suresh Oberoi, Ranjeet, Raza Murad and Archana Puran Singh.

• Khoon Ka Karz: Opera (Lenin Sarani; 281849)—4 shows.

Vinod Khanna, Sunjay Dutt, Rajnikant, Dimple Kapadia, Kimi Katkar, Sangeeta Bijlani, Shakti Kapoor and Kader Khan comprise the main cast. The film is directed by Mukul S. Anand and the music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Numbri Aadmi: New Cinema (Lenin Saranı; 270147)—4 shows.

Directed by Swaroop Kumar and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the lead stars are Mithun Chakraborty, Kimi Katkar, Sangeeta Bijlani, Kunal Goswami. Sonu Walia, Suresh Oberoi and Amrish Puri.

• Patthar Ke Phool: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—4 shows.

A love story, starring Salman Khan and Raveena Tandon. The film is directed by Anant Balani and the music is by Ram Laxman.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664)— 4 shows.

Yet another love story, starring Salman Khan and debutante Chandni. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor.

• Yodha: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 2841.38)—4 shows.

Directed by Rahul Rawail and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Sunny Deol, Sunjay Dutt, Sangeeta Bijlani and Danny.

Bengali Films

• Bidhir Bidhan: Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567), Prachi (AJC Bose Road; 271282)—3 shows.

Arun Govil, Satabdi Roy, Ranjit, Mullick, Sumitra Mukherjee, Papia Adhikari, Mohan Choti, Vijay Mohanty, Sangeeta Das and Tapas Paul arc the main attractions of this film, directed by Mohammed Mohain. The music is by Akshay Mohanty.

• Dadamoni: Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045)—3 shows.

Prasenjit, Piya Das, Sumitra Mukherjee, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sandhyarani, Santu Mukherjee and Sukhen Das comprise the cast of this Sukhen Das film. The music is by Ajoy Das.

18-20 March: 6.30 pm

Kathak Kendra, New Delhi presents a three-day festival of Kathak dance featuring Nrityanjali on the 18th and a full-fledged dance-drama, Simhasan on the 19th and 20th.

Nrityanjali, comprising Birju Maharaj's four recent short choreographic numbers (Aum. Naad-Gunjan, Thumri-malika and Leelangika), give an idea of the Kathak Kendra repertory wing's innovative work. Although the story material of Simhasan has been drawn from the Mahabharata, the presentation aims at reflecting contemporary values. Besides choreography, Birju Maharaj has scored the music for the composi-

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani: 449086).



A scene from a Kathak Kendra presentation

18-24 March: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the Hindi play, Sakharam Binder, based on the man-woman relationship, with Kulbhushan Kharbanda in the lead. Written by Vijay Tendulkar and directed by Shyamanand Jalan, the cast also includes Chetna Jalan, Shakil Khan, Pradip Roy and Baishakhi Marjit.

At Gvan Manch (11 Pretoria

Street; 225215/3516). 18 March onwards: 3 pm - 8

Chhayapath will hold a weeklong exhibition of photographs in the West and New South galleries.

Bandana Ash will hold a weeklong exhibition of her crafts in the New Gallery.

19 March onwards: 3 pm - 8

A week-long exhibition of paint-ings by Ranjit Roy in the North

20 March onwards: 3 pm - 8

Baren Basu will hold his paintings exhibition in the Central Gatlery till March 28.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302).

23 March: 6 pm

Sanskriti Sagar presents the comedy play, Cheena Ki Hasina Ki Paheliyan, presented by the Naatak Company of Bombay, with Sushmita Mukherjee in the lead.

At G.D. Birla Sabhagar (29 Ashutosh Choudhury Avenue).

23 March: 6 pm Udayam presents a Bharata Natyam recital by Sujatha Rama-

At Mysore Association Hall (Raja Basanta Roy Road).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230 Bombay-Calcutte-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915; Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): Al-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2025.

London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7): Al-132/1328 at 1230.

* Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1625. Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow:

Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1825. Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-

Calcutta-Hanol: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0755; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0905. "Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1755; Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1905.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-185 at 0630.

Amman-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184 at 0800.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-420 at 1310.

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): 1C-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1530.

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): RA-213 at 1430.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (3, 6): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (daily): BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935.

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr. (3, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (daily): BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5): BG-698 at 1950.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5): BG-697 at 1910

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (2): KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2); KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India wax

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230. Deihi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): Al-1328

at 1230.

Indian Airliñes à

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700; Arr (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-765 at 1700; Arr. (dally): IC-768 at 2210.

Calcutta-Bangaiore: Dep. (daily): IC-771 at 0610; Arr. (daily): IC-772 at 1200.

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1545.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-410 at 0615.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daliy): IC-229 at 1340; Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0800; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agertale: Dep. (daily): IC-743 at 1330, Dep. (3, 5, 6, 7): Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266600, 262417, 569433, 569841/2/2/4/5 and 569633.

1C-241 at 0700, Dep. (1, 2, 4): IC-241 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-744 at 1600, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1350, Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 0900. Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 1400; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1730.

Calcutte-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1320.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955.

Calcutte-Slichar-Imphal: Dep. (daily): IC-255 at 1050; Arr. (daily): IC-256 at 1530.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-270 at 2040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur:

Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-219 at 0840; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-220 at 1320. Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 7): IC-277 at 1745; Arr. (1, 2, 7): IC-278 at 2215.

Calcutta-Viahakapatnam-Medrae: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 0700; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-641 at 0915

Calcutta-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-259 at 1330: Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-260 at 1610.

Vayudoot i

Calcutta-Agartala-Imphal: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-727 at 0530; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-728 at 1120.

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (7): PF-729A at 0550; Arr. (7): PF-730A at 1050.

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-701 at 1140; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-702 at 1615.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kamalpur-Kallashahar-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-729 at 0550: Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-730 at 1040.

Calcutta-Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati-Silchar-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-701 at 1100; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-702 at 1715.

Calcutta-Rourkela: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-715 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-716 at 0855.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilabari-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (2, 6): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (2, 6): PF-710 at 1840.

Celcutte-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lijabari-Dibrugarh: Dep. (4): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (4): PF-710 at 1750.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhat-Lilaberi-Dibrugarh-Tezu: Dep. (7): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (7):

PF-710 at 1705. Calcutta-Aizawi-Silchar-Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-

PF-705 at 0915; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-706 at 1620. Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729A at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-730A at 1410. Calcutta-Alzawi-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-706 at 0910 and PF-7298 at 1310; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706 at 1255 and PF-7308 at 1655. Calcutta-Jamehodpur-Ranchi-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0550; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1115. Calcutta-Jamehodpur: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF- 717 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0745.
Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-707 at 0800; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

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	arture	EASTERN RAILWAY			Dep	erturo	SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY	Arri	ivel
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn	Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311 3005	19-00	Dolhi-Kalka Mali	8-30	2312	6003	20-40	Medrae Meli	7-00	6004
3003	19-20	Amritser Mell	8-05	3006 3004	8002	19-20	Bombey Mail via Nagpur	8-00	8001
2381	20-00 9-15	Bombay Mail via Allahabad Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	13-15 18-00	2382	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombey) Express	15-05	2859
2301	2-13	press via Gaya-Varanasi	10-00	2302	8034	20-20	Ahmedebed Express	5-05	8033
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8030	11-30	Bombey Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
		Arr-Wed. Fri. & Sun.			2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex-	11-50	2842
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304			press		
2000	3-13	press via Patna	10-00	2004	2611	22-35	Bengalore Express	13-45	2612
		Dep-Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sun.					Dep-Tues		
		ArrMon. Tues, Thurs, & Sat.			1		Arr-Sun.		
2301	16-00	Rejdhani Exprese 5 days a	11-30	2302	8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	8014
		week			8011	6-10	lepat Express	21-45	8012
		Dep-Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. &			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	8006
ł	•	Sun.			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	8016
		Arr-Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. &			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8006
		Sun. `			8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via	7-45	<u>,</u> 8410
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jemmu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	2374			Neraj	04.00	000
		press Tri-Wkly			2821	5-55	Dhauil (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	2822
		Dep-Tues. Fri. & Sat.				44.40	press	14-55	8046
		Arr-Tues. Wed. & Sat.			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex-	14-00	0040
2547	13-15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	0017	16-45	press Purulia Express	11-20	8018
•		press			8017	10-43	Dep-Except Saturday	11720	0010
		Dep-Mon. & Thurs.			ł		Arr—Except Sunday		
		Arr—Thurs. & Mon.			2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan-	22-15	_
3009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand	7-20	3010	2002	22-33	drum Central Express	22-10	
3000	20-00	Chord	7-20	00.0	l		Monday only		
3007	9-45	Udeyen Abha Toofan Ex-	18-15	3008	_	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	2601
500.	0.40	press via Main Line		-	l —	14-10	- Guwahati Express	.0 40	
		proces the man. 2010			l		Saturday only		
3011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012 *	_	14-10	Coohin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	ł		Guwahati Weekly Express		
3021	22-00	Mithila Expréss	5-00	3022	ł		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
5659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660	Ì		Thursday only		
3317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Coohin Harbour	22-15	
3029	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030			Terminus Weekly Express		
3035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036		\1 ,	(AIST LOMAIN OF A DOMINISTED IN 11)		
3031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032		S. C. GARNESS	Saturday only		
					2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	2651
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6-00	3072		٠.	Superfact Express (via		
		Dep-Tues. Thurs. & Sat.				4.44	Visakhapatnam & Medras)		
		Arr-Mon. Thurs. & Sat.				47	Dep-Fri. & Sun		
3015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	0074	''an ==	Arr—Tues. & Fri.	20.45	
4474	45.05	Chiese (Indess) Europe	7-30	1172	2674	22-35		22-15	_
1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express Dep—Tues. & Wed.	7-30	11/6			Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)		
		Arr—Sat. & Sun.					Wednesday only		
3327	15-25	Shektipunj (Chopen) Ex-	7-30	3328		14-10	Bengalore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
JUE!	15-23	press		~~EU	_	14-10	Weekly Express (via Howrah	10 70	20/1
		Dep & Arr-Mon, & Fri.					& Cuttack)		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express	10-40	5050			Monday only		
0040		Deo & Arr-Sunday			2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	-
		20p a rui - 2020,					minus Weekly Express (via		
							Howrah)		
							Thursday only		
						14-10	Cochin Herbour Terminus-	13-45	260
		•					Patna Weekly Express (via		h .
		•					Howrah)		
							Wednesday only		
		Sealdah						,	
3143	19-00	Darjeeling Mali	8-45	3144	ENOLI	RIES: For	round the clock information of	Eastern I	Laijue
3153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154	trains.	please di	al 203545-54 for in-coming train	a: 203536	144 to
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152	all oth	er Inform	nation. For information about	reservetk	one en
3103	18-20	Shagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104	Easter	n and So:	uth Eastern Railwevs trains, die	203500	ffrom 1
5185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186	am to	9 pm on	weeksleye and 9 am to 2 pm (n Bunde	VE 000

RIES March 21-April 20 Socialising adventures partnerships collaborations pleasure and pain are your lot in romance you will be madly in love The mid-week is favourable for business transactions Despite a pleasurable social round health will be your main enemy A journey with a stopover is possible

AURUS April 21- May 20 The highlights of the week are property renovation decoration buying selling trading and commission You will find time for romance despite a busy schedule in fi-nance you have enough money to play with and call the shots Throat and stomach prob lems are the major health snags A home away from home or a change of scenery is likely



May 21-June 20 Expect money and gifts to flow in Legacy and loans are also favourably signified in romance you will wine and dine and coo and woo merrily Your health shows a marked improvement and you will move about freely Journey and communication are the not-

ANCER June 21 July 20 Good food fine friends bags of money and several rounds of en tertainment are in store for you Romance will be pleasant and easy but not hot and important As regards your health you could feel a bit below the weather Travel is indicated for work and paradoxically leisure

able areas where you can score

EO July 21 -August 21 Romance partnerships marriage divorce and journey are the main trends of the week Romance is your destiny so do not worry needlessly in finances ex-penses will again be the cross you may have to bear Health-wise there will be many highs and lows this week. The latter half of the week favours travel

August 22-Sept 22 You will be introspective Expenses will Travel remains a very positive indication in romance,

you will fuse business with plea-

















sure wonderfully well. Those who are employed will have a chance to prove their mettle A promotion or job switch is also probable Because of overwork a medical checkup is advisable

IBRA

Sept 23-Ort 22 Friendship support love marriage and buying and selling of house office and property are the sa lient features of the week To

wards the mid week romance has its beautiful and loving echo for you Those in trading and business do well. The health of elders could tell upon your own health Travel will help you to pull strings and develop happy relationships

CORPIO

Oct 23---Nov 22 The week indicates a new high in your sta tus prestige and honour Expect

March 20

Moon sentile Sun This sentile ensures opportunities and the luck of the draw in whatever you do A major pich-fulfilment is on the certs. Primetion, hids and a new high in your cereer are the other happy transe

March 21

Moon settle Jupiter Past efforts pay sich divisioning A good britisher to many, have children, start a venture, expand an existing one and visits to menda,

March 22

Moon conjunction Mars. White home, property parents and in-tiews influence you a prest deal, there is a danger of accidents. A nome away from home is a distinct passibility. Buying, satiling, shopping, purchasing and nego-listing are the other tability birections for your guidence.

March 23 Moon a first square T will value include and

promotion, perks pelt and power Romance will be an ancillary because work will consume your time and energy Financial ly this an excellent week Your health will stand up to the tremendous pressures and pulls Therefore feel free to go right ahead Property home work and business may make you travel a lot

AGITTARIUS Nov 23 Dec 20

An excellent week for ceremonies tunc tions meets enterprises and publicity campaigns in romance you will love with passion and devotion Expect a contract or a settlement or a new business deal to come through Your health improves and you will

APRICORN

work at full steam

Dec 21 Jan 19 Loans legacies joint finances taxes buying selling transfers and shifts are the important indica tions of the week in romance you will love with great intensity and spirit of sacrifice. It is time to make a good investment or a fast buck Take adequate health safeguards Devote some time to the affairs of the home and family

QUARIUS

Jan 20 Feb 18 Marriage children boss home research and experiment help you to make much of this week It is the right time for engagement mar riage and romance Loans and funds will be available so make a good and practical use of money Your health improves but the health of other family members may cause some con cern Long distance travel and perhaps emigration are the sa lient features for you

ISCES Feb 19- March 20 This week the focus is on work health re sponsibilities and a superior level of excellence Secret meet ings and open and happy courtships are the contradictory predictions for you The financial sector includes lending borrow ing buying selling trading and going in for agency and broker age If you do not take proper health care you may land up in a clinic or hospital. An important journey awaits you in the next 15 days

BIRTHDAYS

larch 17

Market I have a confurtion Mercury This conjunction heips traders selection. Journalists, essentives and politicisms De not teave everything to phenose and tuck Plan and marshallyour resources, and laten to organise and manage Daying, selling, home; properly and markage are the other distriction features. tractive features

larch 18

Moon sextule Mars Success in ventures, negotiations and deals la assured Traders painters and those in iron, steel and chemic-ats do wonderfully well. Home influences, housing and property affers turn out favourably Those in TV, broadcasting sales and filmmaking will also make it big

irch 18

report from A.K. Patra, principal, Stewart School, Cuttack:

"The Old Stewartonians" Association of Stewart School instituted the Stewart Memorial Quiz Trophy for the best school quiz team in the twin cities of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar, After several preliminaries three teams each from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar qualified for the grand final which was held in the Shaheed Bhavan, Cuttack. Quizmaster Frederick Wright, a former pupil of the school, conducted the quiz with great alacrity and a fund of humour. The audience was treated to a series of spectacular visuals which ranged from clippings depicting Rip Van Winkle on the Catskill Mountains to Russian Roullette and unforgettable feats in Olympic history. The audio-round was performed live.

"D.M. School, Bhubaneswar, who had earlier won the Maggi Trophy, again proved their adeptness at quizzing by winning the Stewart Memorial Trophy. Their team consisted of Vikram Patra, Prakash Sahoo and Bibhudutta Sahoo. Raghunandan Mohapatro, Ipsit Mohanty and Sabyasachi Kar of Stewart School rallied well and were put into second position by a very



11th Question: "The vodka is good, but the meat is rotten," said the computer. How did this gourmet's comment become popular in the field of computers? (Jayanta Ray, N-30/5 Telco Colony, Jamshedpur 831004).

Ans: Early in the history of computers, attempts were made to use them to translate texts from one language to another, using the lexical and syntactic (grammatical) information about the two languages. This approach falled miserably. The best example of the failure of this simplistic attempt was this sentence translated from English into Russian: "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is week". The resulting Russian sentence translated back into English read, "The vod-ka is good, but the meat is rotten"

narrow margin."

A.K. Patra, the principal of Stewart School, is keen on making his school the quizzing centre of Orissa. And with quizmaster Frederick Wright's enthusiasm such an achievement is certainly in the offing.

A quiz report from Pradip Kumar Das, Calcutta 65:

"Matkal-Gouri-Rabindra Nagar Gram Panchayet organised two quiz programmes for their sports and cultural week. There were around 20 entries in the below-16 age group. Samrat butta and Subhashis Sarkar took a big lead from the very beginning and ended winning by a comfortable margin. In this group, quizmaster

Soumajit Biswas tackled the hard competition nicely. With a marginal lead over others Dibyendu Chowdhury and Biplab Biswas came out winners."

An interesting plece from Dr Arun Ganguli, Calcutta 45:

Question: Which famous contemporary comedian did Charles Chaplin refer to as 'his master' and is said to have given him a photograph inscribed 'To ——, the Professor, from his disciple, Charles Chaplin'?

The professor has, in response, said: 'Chaplin calls me his teacher, but I have been the happy one to take lessons in his school'.

Answer: Max Linder. He was born Gabriel Levielle in 1882 near Bordeaux. Starting as a stage-actor, he began to work in films in 1905 to eke out his salary with a little day-time work. He adopted the name 'Max Linder' to mitigate the shame for a stage actor, of acting on the screen. Chaplin and Linder were to become very close friends in private life. The three feature films he made-Seven Years Bad Luck, Be My Wife and The Three Must Get Therewere comic masterpieces. Despite his popularity and



Charlie Chaplin

huge earnings, his life was shadowed by severe health problems and mental depression. He finally committed suicide in October 1925.

QUESTIONS

1) What is "Nobel's Salety" Power better known as? (Onbyashachi Dalai, Piour-

I Write was the crited guest Waste sew's Republic Day Section New Delhi? Respondent Calcutte 14) I Wisconstant the original Waste Republicates Waste Service Spannal

EVENORICA SARIHAR WITH CORPORA CONTROL OF CORPORA C

jum, Calcutta 16)
8) Who heads a band called Voicestra? (Robin S. Chatterjee, Siliguri)
7) Which Middle East
Prime Minister was an American whose parents were Russian? (Othello Mazoomdaar, Boral 5)

 What is a "Lollipop Apparatus" in bio terminology? (Arun Kumar Purchit, Calcutta 7)

St To whom and when did Albert Einstein send the selegram: Congratulations, greatest sort of humarity Letter follows: Yourstray, Albert Einstee ' Gunnadip Manoy, whoship selegram 18) Toyohiro Akiyama was: the first journalist to go into space in 1990. Which animals did he take with him and why? (Shelid) Abdur Rab, Burdwan 51)

ANSWERS

College of the part of the college o

Pobby McFerrin 1) Mrs Colde Meir of Israe

A single and start at a series of the series

UNION WARES OF CHARLES



• WORD PLAY! It's always worth the trouble to produce a smile, even if you have to hunt for it. Here are three words that contain the right letters. S-MILE, SIM-LE. SIM-L.—E. What words?

Simile, simple, and simulate are three words that comply.



WHAT AM I? Find this eight-letter word, if you

My first is in ice, but not in snow, My second's in high, but not in low.

My third's in poke, but not in jab. My fourth's in muscle, but not in flab.

My fifth's in eight, but not in five.
My sixth's in swing, but not in

jive. My seventh's in sup, but not in dine.

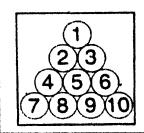
My eighth's in salt, but not in brine.
Hint- I'm often roasted and sold

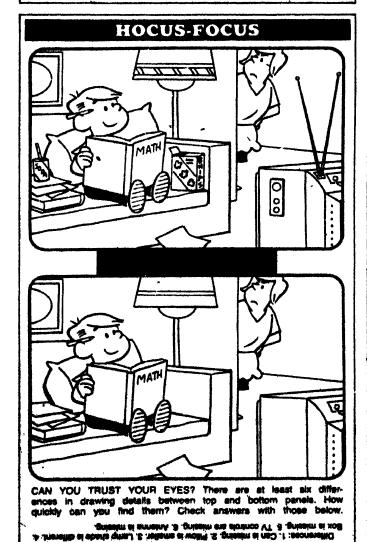
from carts on city streets.

e ABOUT FACE! Let's say 10 coins of like size appear in a triangular formation, as below. Now then, how is it possible to change the direction of the triangle (that is to say, have it point downward, for instance) by moving just three of the coins?

It's rather easy, once you know how, of course.

\$ bns S abisgnois D1 bns T anscommons \$ bns S abisgnois D1 bns T anscommon \$ bns B woled 1 nico gnivem bns





FUNSPOT

FULL SWING! 'Tis the season to be jolly...and busy, natch. Add these colors nestly: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. blue.

SPELLBINDER							
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words: SPARKLES							
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.							
Try to score at least 50 points.							





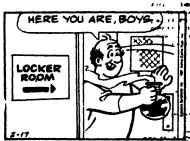


























"It's yours, Leroy. You bought it Last night along with the organ."



















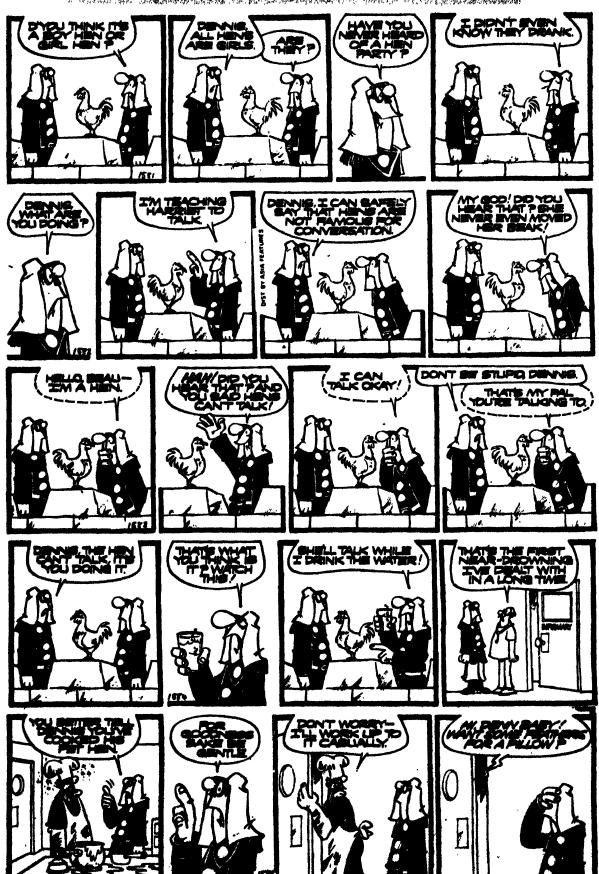






CHARLES IN A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

ALCONO.



















CANDID CAMERA



Looking back on a glorious career, **P.T. Usha** can afford to forget some of the reverses as part of life. Now it will be marriage, and a new drive with which to look forward. Photograph by UTPAL SORKAR



Good Night.

In just a few minutes, you could create a marble floor on this page.



POST MORTEM

Affair Victims

We are all the victims of the brief affair between Chandra Shekhar and Rajiv Gandin (February 24)

Let them all go to the polls and restore our faith in democracy Sumon Roy, Midnapore (W B)

Who is Chandra Swami?

Is there a lack of good subjects that you had to feature Chandra Swamı on the cover ('The Negotiator', February 3)? What is his positive contribution to society to deserve such exposure?

Chandra Swamı reminds me of his predecessoi, Dhiren Brahmachan, who reached the peak of his power by his skill in enthrailing VVIPs, but then gradually faded into oblivion.

Sunil Banerice. Calcutta

■ It is very painful when we see a godman of dubrous merit controlling the

democratic country like India Maybe, the cover headine should have read, The Future Prime Mmster?' Raj Kumar Sahu. Ghatal (W.B.)

I fail to understand the importance given to Chandra Swami. He is neither a politician nor an intellectual nor an academician nor a player. He is simply a top class middleman Shovanial Bakshi. Calcutta

■ Chandra Swamı ıs a well known opportunist who is always ready to cash in on any situation. His acting as a negotiator in the Ayodhya case is nothing but a clever gambit He is also publicity hungry and there could be no better platform than the Ayodhya one to get him the limelight

Javed Nishat, Calcutta

 According to Chandra Swami, politics and religion cannot be delinked I strongly oppose this view

In our present democratic environment, we should not involve religion at all

long before the people are divided completely on the basis of religion and faith

In any case, his stand on the Ayodhya issue is mere ly to get some cheap publicity, something he thrives

Sandeep Dasgupta. Rourkela

■ Chandra Swamı ıs a god man blessed with great intelligence I regard him highly, but cannot accept him as an avatar So. I do not like to call him a Swa m: There was only one true Swamı in that sense born in India and that was Vivekananda

D.G. Panchkari, Durgapur

For the Record

The article, 'In Its Own Groove' (February 24) had a mmor error The writer has said that the British Gramophone Company was set up in 1901 and the factory was established seven years later I wish to point out that the first record manufacturing plant was set up in 1902 at Beliaghata and in 1928 shifted to Dum

The logo of HMV-the dog listening to the phonograph-has remained the most enduring symbol of recorded Indian music. The writer should also have mentioned that the Gra mophone Company was set up in India as a subsidiary of the Electrical and Musical Industries (EMI)

In the box item, it should have been mentioned that the first longplaying record (LP) was made in 1959 with Ravi Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan, Lata Man geshkar and Hemanta Mukherjee, and that the first stereo was brought out in 1965 with Ravi Shankar and Ali Akhar Khan.

Ramesh Pal Tewari, Calcutta



Otherwise, it will not be whole political scenario in a Chandra Swami: Oh. God!

CONTENTS

The Telegraph 24 FEBRUARY 1991



After a long period of Left Front rule in West Bengil the state has another option Will the firebrand Congress(I) leader Mamata Bineriec be the inswer to Iyoti B isu and the CPI(M)

There we still some renowned auction centres in the city where you can make a very good buy at a bargan price and while it it you can have the bonu excitement of making a bid before the hammer comes down

SECTIONS

1 - Heritage

Curry Curry Curry

// / Days

Inner Eye

Quiz

Junior Whirl

26 Comics

311 Images

Cover Ashok Das



Tarish Chatterjee Street, off Tolly's Nullah near Kalighat, is nobody's idea of a posh locality. The dilapidated shops and tiled-roof tenements give it a look little better than that of a slum, like so many other parts of this 300-year-old metropolis. The residents are no different from their surroundings, drab and nondescript. Yet, amidst this mediocrity was born a girl who may one day put Harish Chatterjee Street on the political map of West Bengal, to use a cliche.

To be sure, she is no 'lady'. Daughter of a panditmoshai (priest), she is as ordinary as the people she grew up with. She is not the kind you would look at twice, except for the fact that she demands attention. It is this ability to grab headlines any which way she can that has pitchforked Mamata Banerjee into the collective consciousness of the people of the state. To the students and other young people who stream in and out of her house right through the day, she is 'Didi', to be consulted on every problem they face. To the man on the street, who had got used to the apathy of the politician, she is like a whiff of fresh air. House collapse or rapeseed oil poisoning, she is almost always the the first to reach the scene of tragedy. At 36, Mamata Banerjee-appointed West Bengal Youth Congress(I) president not very long agd—is a phenomenon, not only within her own party, but in the entire state. In a party which has depended more on the charisma of individual leaders than on any solid organisational base, Mamata has been able to use her qualities as a leader to galvanise her partymen into action.

It is her perceived sincerity that has helped her become perhaps the most popular of all the state Congress(I) leaders. Wherever she goes, whichever programme she undertakes, party workers are eager to give her a hand. "She is the biggest crowd-puller after the chief minister, Jyoti Basu," comments an important leader of a Left Front constituent party.

Ironically, her growing popularity has acted as a red rag before the bullish CPI(M). For Jyoti Basu's party, she is the latest and biggest threat. The CPI(M) may be faulted on choosing its friends, but even its staunchest critics cannot blame it for ever having mistaken its enemy. The extent to which it is willing to go to neutralise her became apparent on August 16 last year when she was hit on the head by Lallu Alam, brother of the influential leader of CPI(M)'s Calcutta disctrict committee. Badsha Alam. Mamata was leading a procession to protest against a transport fare hike and, as the CPI(M) even today alleges, infuriated the young partymen manning the Hazra Road crossing along with the police with her provocative slogans. An enraged Lallu broke her skull

with indiscriminate lathi blows while the police just stood by and watched. It was only after Mamata received 17 stitches on her head and the chief minister got furious with the growing hooliganism in his party that the police made a move to arrest Lallu.

Even those who refused to take **Mamata Baner jee** seriously are now sitting up and taking notice. But is she chief minister material? PATHIK GUHA finds out

Calcutta. It was not only Rajiv Gandhi's way of consoling her, but also a recognition of her new potential as a crowd-puller. The appointment could not have been timed better. The near-fatal injury that she sustained was instantly made out to be the price of taking on the bull by its horns. The thousands of sympathisers she created gave birth to a craze and the unending queues of visitors at her hospital everyday corroborated that. It also gave a hint of what was to follow. There were thousands of people at Esplanade East on December 6, 1990 as Mamata addressed her first rally after being released from the hospital. Among those drawn to the venue by her call was the Leftist poet Subhas Mukhopadhyay. "She is too strong to be restrained by lathis," said the intellectual. No wonder she has made a handful of her own party leaders jittery. If she finally fails to deliver the goods, it will be largely because of the jealousy of some of



August 16, 1990: CPI(M) goons, led by Lallu Alam, turn Mamata into an instant heroine

The attack cost her two operations and three months' confinement to a hospital bed, but it also heralded a new high in her political life just when she was beginning to fade away following the loss of her Jadav-pur Lok Sabha seat to the CPI(M) debutante Prof. Malini Bhattacharya in the 1989 general elections. Even as she was groaning in pain on her hospital bed the high command's decision to appoint her state Youth Congress(I) president reached

her partymen.

But why is she so popular? What makes her tick? Is it because she is a woman? Maybe. It is because she is a lighter? Surely. Just as a Hindi film heroine has to be the paragon of virtue on the screen to be a heart throb, women in general attract immediate sympathy the moment they become the victims of male aggresiveness. It is doubtful whether a male leader would have won half her fan following with double

her stamma Mamata is the girl next door making it big

In a state where the CPI(M)'s diktat is law, the Congress(I) rank and file, special ly those in the villages, are forever at the receiving end. With a section of the party leaders busy in mutual mud-slinging or even mortgaging their party's interests to the CPI(M), they are itching for an all out war against Jyoti Basu's outfit. That is why A B A Ghani Khan Choudhury's call to partymen to take up sten guns to resist the CPI(M)'s reign of terror" touched a chord in them adverse Press reports notwithstanding. With their backs to the wall, the Congress(I) youths now refuse to listen to anything but militant slogans. And Mamata has plenty of them tucked in the anchal of her sam

It is this instinct of Mamata's that prompted her to pick up two burning issues as soon as she took over as president of the West Bengal Youth Congress(I) unemployment and forcible harvesting She knew, of course that there was little she could ofter except sheer militancy. So she began to go around locking up employment offices though many saw this as little more than sheer gummickry. In between she took time off to visit a village in Burdwan district and replace the red flag with her party tricolours.

with her party tricolours "With all our leaders hogging headlines in the city, there is no one to stand by our rural supporters," says Mamata "Their wretchedness has to be seen to be beheved The CPI(M) leaders have been forcing labourers, priests, grocers and even barbers to boycott Congress supporters The arm-twisting is severest when it comes to harvesting What's particularly sad is that many of them do not even have the money to buy stamp papers for peti tioning the courts. I have opened a legal cell in the Youth Congress(I) to fight their cases. If we can collect a large number of petitions at a time, we may be able to persuade the Supreme Court to institute a Lok Adalat to dispose of the cases ' says Mamata

Although her family's roots are largely Arural—her father, Pramileswar Banerjee was from Chakaipur village in Birbhum—Mamata was born and brought up at Harish Chatterjee Street. The second of six brothers and two sisters, she was drawn to politics by the atmosphere at home. "A lot of Congressmen used to come to her father," recalls Mamata's mother, Gayatri Banerjee. "Even as a child, she used to listen to their discussions with rapt attention. It was Indira Gandhi's charimatic personality, though, that had the strongest influence on Mamata. She has been Mrs Gandhi's fan ever since she could identify her pictures."

The hurly-burly of politics has taken its toll on Mamata's personal life As of now,

she has no plans of getting married "I have failed to convince her," complains Gayatridevi, "she is adamant in her decisions Now I have given up " Is the hushand of Mamata's choice so hard to come by? "No, no, no", protests Mamata, blushing "It is just that I am fine now Why go in for unnecessary hassles? I know my mother is a little upset about it. You know the way Bengali mothers are Marriage is the ultimate blessing they can think of for their daughters ' Feeling maybe a little guilty about having had to disappoint her mother, Mamata is quick to add, "I love my mother very much I never venture out of my house without seeing her There was a break in that habit only once She was in the bathroom and I was in a hurry to leave the house. You know when? August 16 last year

Coaxed by a publisher Mamata has scribbled down an autobiography of sorts A bunch of fullscap sheets with childish scrawls, the manuscript speaks volumes of the author's intellect Still, it is not lacking in warmth. The bit about her debut in the Lok Sabha in 1984 makes interesting reading I had a tremendous language problem since I did not know either English or Hindi well So I decided to learn by seeing others perform in the House I used to watch everything, from style to gesticula tions A week passed and I mustered some courage to raise my hand during question hour It was time for the MPs to call the attention of ministers to various problems I wanted to say something But there were a lot of others too, clamouring for the Speaker's attention I raised my hand on three consecutive days, but while the others got their chances I did not So, on the fourth day, I started shouting, saying that I was not being allowed to have my say The Speaker looked at me and confessed that his not asking me to speak was due to the fact that he did not know my name I told him my name and began

speaking Mamata was a virtual non-entity when she defeated the renowned barrister and CPI(M) stalwart, Somnath Chatterjee, from Jadavpur which was considered to be a red bastion. That catapulted her to the headlines overnight. In fact, for a long time, her image as a fighter owed itself largely to her shock victory over the Marxist leader Although it was really the Indira wave that carried the day, still, who can forget the media mileage she extracted from her encounter with Chatterjee just before the election? She had gone to his house, ostensibly to touch his feet and seek his blessings so that she could defeat him Chatterjee, however, refused to oblige his 28-year-old challenger Mamata made the most out of this incident, and Chatteriee promptly found himself branded as arrogant for not appreciat-



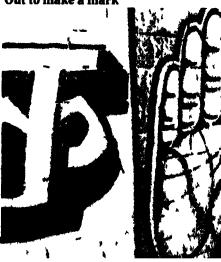
Back from the hospital, Mamata with l

ing her humility

Mamata has always had a knack of up staging others "When I was in college in the early Seventies the SUCI girls were the most aggressive of the lot" she recounts "When I joined Ashutosh College I decided to build a union that would be stronger than theirs Soon, the Chhatra Panshad girls were outdoing the SUCI in slogan-shouting through sheer lung power We outsmarted them also Once, when they called a strike, I forced all our supporters to be in college by four am, long before the strikers leaders arrived to lock the colege gate"

Never to be outdone by others in raising-issues, Mamata once took things to an extreme when in September 1988 she staged a dharna outside the then Umon industry minister, J. Vengala Rao's office in order to draw his attention to the plight of industries in Bengal. In doing so, she not only embarrassed her own party, but provided the CPI(M) with a stick to beat the Congress. In a bid to extricate himself from a tight spot, Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, PCC(I) chief and Union minister of state for commerce at the time, chose to dismiss her agitation as "sheer drama"

Out to make a mark





er and niece

he should have staged the sit-in outside yoti Basu's chamber at the Writers" juildings since he was the one responsible or the large-scale industrial sickness in he state, Das Munshi argued. In the end, famata got what she wanted when Venala Rao annnounced he was coming to alcutta to meet Jyoti Basu to sort out the ssue.

"My job is to protest whenever there is any injustice," says Mamata. "I would not have minded even if something had not come out of my dharna." Last October, she wrote a scathing letter to the director of Calcutta Doordarshan for censoring her comments on the Bantala and Birati rape cases. With it she returned the cheque that had been sent to her for appearing for the interview on the persecution of women in West Bengal. Her stand was entirely justified, for any discussion on persecution of women could not possibly ignore the shocking incidents of rape to which she had referred.

Her popularity among the Congress(I) rank and file is largely due to her ability to pounce on anything that smells of persecution—which is also the reason why the ruling CPI(M) hates her. This showed in

the shameful assault on her. Within the CPI(M), she is always referred to as "that girl" instead of being mentioned by name. Asked to comment on her performance in the Congress(I), Bimal Bose, CPI(M) central committee member, said, "Why make remarks about an individual? She is nobody to us. She may be a big leader in the Congress(I), but that hardly makes a difference to us." Robin Deb, state chief of the CPI(M)'s youth wing, is not as indifferent in his assessment. "Mamata is a beautiful product of the culture of the party she belongs to." he says. "She got a lot of publicity when she went about trying to lock up employment offices in the districts (he refuses to acknowledge that she succeeded). What she conveniently forgot was that it was her party leader, Rajiv Gandhi, who froze job opportunities when he was in power. She should be ashamed of what she did. This is exactly the Congress(I) culture we are familiar with. You do one thing but preach something else.

Interestingly, leaders of other Left Front constituent parties are not as dismissive about her. "She is gradually coming up as a leader in her own right," says Makhan Paul, RSP leader. "Right now she is drawing huge crowds in the districts, I am told." Ashok Ghosh, Forward Bloc leader, admits, "She has the potential to put us Leftists in trouble. I do not write her off. But then there are two things that are reassuring for us." Ghosh believes that the "disproportionately high" media coverage of Mamata might eventually ruin her career. "I was amazed in the early Seventies when I found Subrata Mukherjee being referred to by the media as the 'future Netaji'. What audacity to project him like that! May I ask what has happened to the Netaji of the Press?" The other reason why he is not so worried about Mamata is her party itself. "Haven't you seen the jealousy of the Congress leaders?" he asks. "They will take care of her career.'

The CPI leader, Swadhin Guha, feels Mamata possesses "an incredible amount of tenacity" and should be able to survive adverse situations. "She has what you often call the survival instinct and we are told women have the quality more than men. She lacks sophistication, which maybe the reason why she is so popular with the masses." A communist, though not of the same brand as Somnath Chatteriee's. Guha recounts an old anecdote to illustrate Mamata's modesty. "It was the day of counting votes in the 1984 Parliamentary elections. I was waiting at the Alipore Treasury building along with Indrajitda (Gupta), who was contesting from Basirhat. Counting for the Jadavpur seat was also going on. We saw Mamata standing a little away from us and sipping tea from a bhanr. She came to us and offered

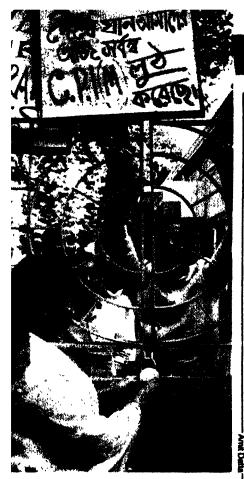
us tea, pouring it from a kettle. She was leading and so was Indrajitda. I heard her telling Indrajitda that he should teach her parliamentary practice as well as how to be a good orator on the floor of the House. Then someone called out to her and she disappeared. And then I heard slogan shouting. The result for the Jadavpur seat had just been announced. I saw Mamata being bundled into an open jeep. Subrata (Mukherjee) was in the driving seat. The jeep was about to whizz by when all of a sudden it screeched to a halt in front of us. Mamata jumped out from behind. She touched Indrajitda's and my feet. 'Please bless me' was all that she could mutter. Her companions almost dragged her into the vehicle again. Slogans rent the air and they were gone.

Geeta Mukherjee, CPI MP, recently ran into problems for having made some cutting remarks about the performance of Malini Bhattacharya (the CPM MP who recaptured Jadavpur from Mamata in 1989) while commenting on Mamata's popularity. "She has many virtues," she told a newsman, "she likes to be on the streets with people's demands. She has a very good rapport with the rank and file of her party. She is better suited for Leftist movements. I have told her time and again that the Congress(I) is not her cup of tea. She should rather be with us. She is making a mistake (by remaining in her party)."

The Congress(I) MLA, Saugata Ray, despite being an admirer of Mamata, refuses to buy this idea. "Being militant is not a sure ticket to success in a communist party," he comments, "the Left parties have so many of them. It is because she is in Congress(I) that she has been able to stick out of the lot so boldly, because ours is a party that encourages individualism."

But the fact is that Mamata is too much of an individualist for even the Congress(I) to stomach. The way she has been organising her programmes almost singlehandedly, and the huge public and media support she is getting, has given rise to a lot of heartburn within the Congress. Her emergence has smudged old equations and created new ones in the state Congress(I). Most astonishing of all the failouts has been the patching up of differences between long-time rivals Somen Mitra, PCC(I) general secretary, and Subrata Mukherjee, state president of the INTUC(I).

Subrata was Mamata's mentor during her formative years, but the two fell out soon after the latter became an MP. Since then, his tongue, which does not spare anyone in the state Congress(I), has been particularly sharp vis-a-vis Mamata. He has been credited with privately nicknaming her Beder Meye Josna, the title of a Bengali film meaning the daughter of a



Everyday, a new gimmick to catch the public imagination

snake-charmer, in an attempt to ridicule her lineage. He branded the PCC(I) under the leadership of A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury "impotent" for having failed to dissuade Mamata from calling a road blockade programme on February 14, demanding the resignation of the Jyoti Basu government. The seventh all-India conference of the CITU was going on in the city and the CPI(M) leaders had been urging her to postpone the programme lest it disturbed the CITU delegates going to the conference. Subrata had been invited to the inaugural session of the conference the previous day, where he even presented Jvoti Basu a memento and was addressed as "comrade" by the chief minister. Had it been any other time, Somen Mitra would have blasted Subrata for his scathing comment on the party leadership, but he remained silent this time, saying that the INTUC(I) leader had mentioned it only to a reporter of Ganashakti, CPI(M) morninger, and that he would not lend any credence to it.

The tussle between Mamata on one side and the Somen-Subrata duo on the other took an ugly turn on March 2 when Tapas Roy, Chhatra Parishad(I) president and a protege of Somen, slapped Samir Chakraborty, Mamata's deputy in the Youth Congress(I), at the meeting of the PCC(I) secretariat. The issue was taken up by Rajiy Gandhi himself and might have had a

role in bringing down Somen's stock with the party high command. The comeback of Pranab Mukherjee, who got her the party ticket in the 1984 Lok Sabha poll, is the other factor going in favour of Mamata at the moment. Believing in the dictum that an enemy's enemy is a friend, Priya Ranjan Das Munshi has also thrown his weight behind her, attending all her programmes meticulously. This vertical division within the party has, however, unsettled a lot of Congressman. "I think Mamata's popularity would have been a boon rather than a bane for us," says Saugata Ray. "It could have been used to bury the factionalism plaguing the state Congress(I) and unite us all in putting up a stiff fight against the CPI(M). Alas, we have missed the opportunity totally.'

According to Ray, Somen and others should give up fighting Mamata because that is what the rank and file want. The other day, he says, "Mamata was on her way to Nadia to attend a rally and Mr Mitra's henchmen called a bandh so that her supporters wouldn't be able to reach the venue. The call not only went unheeded, party workers originally deployed to obstruct traffic in support of the bandh, compelled her to get down at every crossing en route and address roadside meetings."

"We do not stand in the way of anybody's rise," retorts Somen. "All this talk of opposing Mamata is nonsense. The organisation is not my fiefdom and Congressmen are not my subjects. The party is a platform for everyone. The people will choose their leader themselves." Subrata. too, refutes charges of malice towards Mamata. "Why should I be iittery about her? All this talk of jealousy is the concoction of the Press. If I could be a minister in the early Seventies after filling an affidavit-because I was underage-why can't she be a leader before 40?" But Subrata goes on to add: "I admit she has qualities but I must say that the Press is overdoing things while projecting her. I believe a lot of what she does is motivated by her unsatiable hunger for publicity. All she understands is media coverage, for she will even manipulate, be it through forcing an OC to beat her up or by asking her followers to go on a ransacking spree. It is like the practise of some of our party leaders who will rush to condole the death of a party worker but will not touch the body until a Press photographer turns up at the house of the bereaved family. I hate this unabashed hogging of headlines.

"I am sick of all these canards," replies Mamata. "When I went to Sarsuna to console the mothers of those boys who were buried alive under snow while trekking in Uttar Pradesh I did not have any thought of publicity in my mind. It was I who helped those hapless mothers get the

bodies of their sons brought to Calcutta. Mr Rajiv Gandhi did a lot. Did I ask for publicity for what I did? May I ask my party leader whether they have yet gone to visit the parents of Soumitra Ghosh (the journalist who was beaten up by the City of Joy crew and later died of cancer)? I went. But there was no photographer at his house."

Regardiess of what Mamata may say in her own defence, the fact remains that she has recently been showered with publicity. The mediablitz is a throwback to the days when Priya Ranjan Das Munshi and Subrata Mukherjee were the favourites. They enjoyed the glare of the spotlight and cashed in on it to their fullest advantage, spreading the impression that they were the messiahs who would rejuvinate the Congress, which was still reeling from the effects of the Leftist muscle raj of the late Sixties. In the process they raised a lot of expectations among partymen, but finally failed to live up to them.

Mamata's attempts to overproject herself received its severest drubbing at the hands of the CPI(M) when, stung by its humiliating defeat in the 1984 poll, it went out of its way to prove that the doctorate degree she claimed to possess was fake. She had got it from an institution in the US called East Georgia University, which it turned out was nothing more than a certificate-producing mill. The CPI(M) was about to rob her of her Lok Sabha seat, alleging that she had duped the voters by calling herself Dr Mamata Banerjee. Her membership remained but the prefix was quietly dropped.

Besides her party leaders in West Bengal, Mamata's biggest liability could even tually be the one-man high command that is Rajiv Gandhi. She does not enjoy a good rapport with her boss, the All India Youth Congress(1) president, Romesh Chennithala, and had to wait for months to get the list of office-bearers approved by him. It is rumoured that in the end she got it okaved by Rajiy Gandhi--not the first time he has bailed her out. In fact, her berth in the Pradesh Election Committee may have been a gift from him. There are already reports that this new post will help her get the party nomination for a safe seat other than Jadavpur, although she denies this vehemently. "I do not flee battlefields," she declares.

The changeover in the WBPCC(I) may bring a temporary halt to the ongoing campaign against her. But then, the high command has always the last laugh whenever anyone has threatened to get too big for his or her boots. If she fails to play her cards shrewdly, the sword of Damocles which has come down on many an upcoming leader, will not spare her either. Otherwise, the sky is the only limit to her zooming career.



THE DURAND INSTITUTE, ASANSOL



The Durand Institute (renamed Vivekananda Institute in 1987) is the oldest railway institution in India. It was established within the European colony of Asansol in 1878 for the mechanical engineers of East Indian Railway. During those days its doors were closed to the natives. Later it was renamed the European Institute when another of its kind was established in 1915 for the Indian staff.

During the silver jubilee celebrations of the Durand Institute, the committee of the then Institute of Mechanical

Engineers decided to replace its swimming pool with a dance hall of high grade Burma teak. For this an estimate was sanctioned by the East India Railway Company directors from London.

The Durand Institute was named after Sir Mortimer Durand who was neither a railway employee nor was he associated with the institute. However, as a civilian, Sir Durand is best remembered for the famous Durand Line between India and Afghanistan, Pamir and Tibet. He was also renowned for the establishment of the Durand

Cup football tournament, the oldest of the Blue Riband championships in the country. Sir Durand was also associated with the Royal Asiatic Society. The European Institute was renamed Durand Institute as it was situated on the road named after Sir Durand.

During Christmas senior officials of the East Indian Railway, right from Calcutta to Saharanpur, would join in the fortnight-long celebrations at the institute. Even agents of East Indian Railway with their family and friends would be invited for the occasion at the institute's elegant dance hall.

Tartha's is (or was) a nice enough little eat-Lery just off Dupont Circle a stone's throw away from our Chancery office in Washington. I used to go there once or twice a week for a quick lunch whenever there was an unusual rush of work, and, as the Americans eat early. I found the place more or less empty when I arrived shortly before two. The waiters glared at me to begin with, because they too like proper hours, but soon they became indulgent and goodhumoured. It's amazing what a tip can do.

Then when I came in one afternoon at the usual time 1 found a raven-haired girl seated at the table just across the room. I always look out for figures first, and this one I could see had shapely legs and was generally well-endowed. When I got further up, I saw the face of a Madonna. Her hair was parted straight in the middle and done up in some sort of chignon, but what struck me most was the rose. just out of bud, thrusting from her temple towards a discreetly rouged left cheek. She patted the flower from time to time, as if to reassure it that it put the paint on her face to shame.

The rose was of a most unusual brilliance. Cerise. Carmine. Crimson. I don't know much about the names of colours, but these are what came to my mind. The flower lit up her hair and, but for the makeup, it would have given radiance to her face as well. I studied her for a while, which process could not have taken more than a minute, when the waiter arrived with her order. I noticed it was a cheese and lettuce sandwich, toasted, with a glass of milk on the side. American girls watch their fi-

I saw the girl four or five times again in the following weeks. Always it was the same table opposite mine, always the same sandwich—and always that beautiful rose in her hair, as fresh as if it had been newly plucked. Then one day I found her seated right next to me. They have small

The Rose In Her Hair...

tables at Martha's, which can quickly be joined together as required. I sat down and smiled at her. "Nice day," I said.

She smiled in return. "It was so silly sitting all that way across the room with only the two of us in the place. I can see you are a well brought up young man, or by now you would have taken some kind of, er, initiative. I assure you that I am a very prime and proper lady!"

The sandwich came and the

...and the perfume of her memory will remain forever.

writes

P.L. Bhandari

glass of milk, and I ordered a dry martini for myself and something more substantial to eat. Between mouthfuls she looked up at me. "You don't have the accent," she said, "But are you Latin American by any chance?"

I sipped my drink. "I was about to ask you the same question", I replied, correcting her about my nationality. "A late lunch hour. Those dark good looks. Those curves. And the rose in your hair. You must be from Spain—or from Mexico, maybe?

She almost choked on her milk. "As wrong as I was. I'm a country gal from Florida. I work for the Guatemalans across the road. They never eat before two and then they take siestas after. This gives me plenty of time and sometimes I take in a movie before I go back to work. Well, well, well—all the way from India, eh? One day you must tell me about the Taj Mahal. And

Mahatma Gandhi. And about yoga. In that order."

The scent from the rose in her hair wafted towards me and this, with her coquettishness, mixed with the kick the gin was giving me, made a bolt of lightning shoot through my veins. "Look", I asked her, "I have a three o'clock appointment today and then tomorrow I have to go to the mid-west, but could we do that movie together one of these days?"

She placed a dollar bill under her plate and got up to leave. "I don't see why not," she said. "A movie would be nice. Whenever it suits you". Then I saw the back of her skirt wiggling farewell to me.

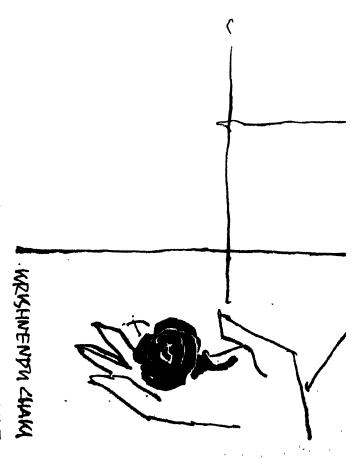
I was away for about a fortnight, mostly in the Chicago area, but the day I got back I headed for Martha's somewhat before my usual time and in a fever of anticipation. This was foolish of me, and I knew it. I was no stricken teenager on his first date, and I curbed my steps and thought of another place to eat. But I went straight ahead.

She was sitting next to my usual place, which position she seemed to have appropriated permanently. "Well, hello, stranger!" she said gaily, "long time, no see! Tell me all that goes on in this big bad world!"

I got out a narrative as fast as I could, and then said to her, in such desperation that I seemed to gasp for breath: "When can we do that movie together? Tomorrow all right?"

"Sure," she said. "It so happens my boss is going to New York in the morning, so I don't have to get back to the office at all. I'll be here at the usual time." She gulped her milk, flashed her teeth, and left with a swirl of her skirt.

I groomed myself with special care the following morning, and when I arrived at the restaurant I found that she had



assumed an entirely new personality. Form-fitting black slacks and a cherry-red knitted jumper over a white silk blouse-these had replaced the severe business suits I had seen her in previously. But the rosebud was still there, jutting from the tendril of her left temple. She was reading, which indicated that she had been waiting a while. The book, I noticed, was James Hilton's Time And Time Again, which was then on the bestseller lists. She tossed the book aside when she saw me approaching.

"You're going to order me a steak", she said, "filet mignon, medium rare. With French fries. And after I'm going to have a blueberry pie a la mode. No milk, but coffee; black. See what a changed woman I am

today!"

Then she put on a serious face. "I have a confession to make. We can see any silly film on any dreary day. But look outside! The sun is shining. The birds are singing. I booked us tickets on the Potomac cruise. The cherry blos-

soms are in full bloom, and you'll see all of Washington's landmarks as you've never seen them before. The steamer leaves at three and gets back as six. So let's hurry!"

She had her Chevvy parked outside and we were at the quay with just a minute to spare. Truly it was a most wonderful voyage. I had never seen the White House look like this before, nor the Lincoln Memorial, nor the domed Houses of Congress on Capitol Hill-they all looked the same, yet they were not the same. The highlight of the afternoon was when we glided past the Japanese cherry blossoms. At that moment she stood on her toes and kissed me on the cheek.

When they served tea we discussed books. She was an avid reader. "I just eat them up—morning, noon and night", she said, reeling off the names of Irwin Shaw, James Jones and Herman Wouk, three postwar Americans who were hitting the lists. From across the Atlantic she indicated a preference for Graham

Greene and Nicholas Monseratt and, further east, for Francoise Sagan and Alberto Moravio.

Do you have such writers in your country?"

"In the English language, no, not yet. But there are some coming up. You just wait and see. One of these fine days you might even see my name among the bestsellers."

She looked at me with a new interest. "You a writer?"

I shook my head. "I'd like to be. But time is fleeting. Writing needs discipline. And it needs time. When I quit this rat race I'll be nearing 60 and there won't be much time left. And it's always too late to discipline oneself when one is old."

Tears filled her eyes. "I have another confession to make." She said. "I am leaving Washington. My boss is now First Secretary and has been promoted Consul-General in Miami. He has asked me to go with him. My Spanish is good, I know those parts like the shape of my nose and the prospects are fine. Besides, my

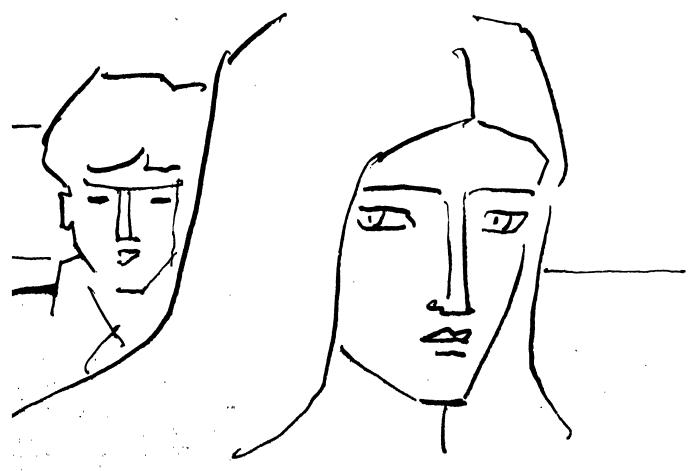
folks live on a farm just 30 miles from Daytona Beach. I'd to see them at least once a month. They're not getting any younger."

She saw the downcast look on my face. "Cheer up", she said. "It's a big world and you've a long way to go. Here, take this." She plucked the rose out of her hair and placed it in the palm of my hand. It felt strange to the touch. "But it isn't real", I said.

"Of course not, silly. How do you think I could afford a fresh rosebud everyday, in season and out of season? They make these out of ribbons and other materials in Japan and a girlfriend brought this one back from Tokyo last year. Look!"

She lifted one of the frail petals to reveal the tiniest of cups. "I put a single drop of attar inside this pore. The scent gives a further illusion of reality."

An hour later she went out of my life. I never even got to know her name. But she left me the rose in her hair. And the perfume of her memory



March 21-April 20 House, home, property, buying and sell-ing are favourably signified as the sun trines Jupiter. In finance, personal and professional directions will blend. Romance will be enough to keep you happy. Commitments and promises will be made and given. Budget your activities and thus ensure a good health.



Expenses could tie you in financial knots. You may have to look after the unfortunate and the sick. Personal progress is certain. Income augmentation and deals help you to tide over expenses. Romance will be pleasant. Health hassies and posers are possible. Travel includes communications, visits, interviews and commuting as well as possibility of a trip.

EMINI

May 21-June 20 Trading and investing top the list of your activities this week. In romance you will sway others by your charisma and savvy. Success in negotiations, settlements, contracts, buying and selling is predicted. Unless absolutely necessary it is better not to travel for the time being. Slight fever and colds may keep you indoors for a few days, but you get over them

ANCER June 21-July 20

soon.

Hard work with suitable rewards and living in style make this a bright week. Money will pour into your pocket. Also, opportunities to make more money will be available. You will be loved and applauded by your dear one. Except for slight stomach problems your health remains in proper shape. The home and the out-side world demand your attention.

EO

July 21---August 21 Expenses, travel,

ceremony, pilgrimage and publicity poosts are the week's main trends. Good luck is your due. Your job, profession and pusiness are favourably signified. Attend to your work first, romance can wait. Travel is possible, but make sure that interviews and appointments are not cancelled or postponed. No



A STATE OF THE STA















major health problem is fore-seen. This is definitely a familyoriented week.

IRGO

August 22-8ept 22 Loans, funds, jointfinances and, surpri-

singly, a lot of assorted amusement form the highlights of the week, Romance will be available in bits and parts. After a slightly shaky start, all will be well with your health. Do not be in a hurry to travel. The focus is certainly on the home which includes kids and ceremonies.

Sept 23-Oct 22

Changes in job, business or profession are certainly indicated. In the long run, these work out to your advantage. Those in sales, trading, public relations, teaching, publishing and films do exceptionally well. You will have no complaints so far as romance is concerned.

shape. **APRICORN**

CORPIO Oct 23-Nov 22

tant quartet. Creativity of a high

order is foreseen. Romance with the full of passion and pleasure Health shows some improvement, but will relapse if you in dulge in overwork. Your job o family matters may require you have the forest the forest the forest transfer the forest transfer the forest transfer the forest transfer the forest transfer transfer the forest transfer trans

to travel. Changes in the home and family are certain.

AGITTARIUS

The week's mail

trends are joint

Nov 23--- Dec 20

finance, loans, investments

journey, conference, inspiration

al moments, exultation and ex

citement. It is time to set a nev

high in goals. Investments and

blueprints for financial progres will be made. You will find time

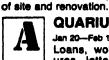
for romance. March-end and

April suggest travel and cere monies. Except for this wee

your health will be in goo

Kids, joy, moriey and travel form the impor

Dec 21-Jan 19 This week is excellen for contacts, com munications and collaborations Those in employment get set fo a change. Loans, funds, invest ments, perks and promotion an the other highlights of the week in romance, your heart will be a nest of singing birds. Journer and commuting are fated. Take proper health safeguards a slight opposition to plans could tell on your health. The domestisector includes travel, selection



QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18 Loans, work press ures, letters, calls contracts, trips and an over whelming desire to succeed characterise the week. A fast buck, a luck of the draw and expansion at all levels on the financial front. Romance will be hectic and high—flying. Cultivate a hobby for keeping your healtl In shape.

ISCES Feb 19-Merch 20 Those in brokerage and advertising ger more mileage. The toundation c a financial arrangement will b laid. A big yes to life, luck an love in romance. Travel only absolutely essential. Overwor could cause breathing posent Household Items, gadgets ath leisure have top: priority on the domestic front.

BIRTHDAYS

March 24

Sun time Jupiter: Feelings could be nurt as the moon also opposes Uranus-Neptune. Moneywise, a good year. Change in the work area will work out to your benefit. A journey proves eventful. Geremonies and pligrimages are destined.

Merch 25

Moon—Jupiter conjunction: Children, give you joy. Those employed are in for parks, progress and premotion. Many of you will consolidate your gains. Expenses will be heavy but for a good dates.

artnerships and collaborations partnerships and community form the tric. Children, hobbis and artistic pursuits give care de-light. Fuse entertainment with enterprise, glamour with galaty, and the dividends will be handsome.

March 28

Moon trine Uranus-Neptune: moon trine Uranua-Neptidie? Those in land, building, housing, architecture, gardening, hotilique, ture, agriculture and management, will make it big. The name of the game is progress; the scope and range are truly scormous.

March 29

Moon sexule Jupiter: As Mars siso squares moon, you will have to put your best look for ward to make it to the top. Ellow and prayers to help, it is present man to be happy:

erch 30

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18 14 12 1-



CURRY CURRY CURRY Ranjit Rai

Curry Masala Fried Fish

A fish curry that has no end of admirers It is one dish that never fails, and to my amazement has been relished by people from all ethnic groups. Some Bavarians who had it with us even learnt how to make it, and went as far as to say that a kiosk in a park in Munich serving this fish could make one a millionaire in no time!

For the preparation of this very special dish the selection of the type of fish is very important. In India pomfret, a fairly delicate fish, is used. Otherwise small brill, may be used. These are so called flat fish but verueal swimmers with eyes on either side and not on the same side.

However flat fish swimming horizontal ly could be used but since their underskin does not have the same texture as their uppersking the flavour is not uniform. Fishes used with success are rainbow trout red muliet small brill flounder and herring or sprat. Ideally, fishes along with their head should not exceed 400 g per fish. A 500 g fish will also do.

Serves 1 or 2 Preparation 30 minutes Cooking Time 5 8 minutes

Method

The fish should be gutted not skinned. The head should be chopped off but the tail retained. Remove any scales and cut off the fins (see illustration).

Using a sharp knie, score the fish twice on both sides starting an inch from the tail and ending at the head. The cuts should be about one and a half inches apart (less for smaller fish). Make sure you do not score too deep and cut through the bones.

Apply lemon juice and salt evenly into the scored fish and marinate for 30 60 minutes

In a wet grinder, grind the masala into a paste add a little water if the mixture scems too dry. After the fish has been properly marinated wash and pat dry

Rub in the masala liberally and place on a rack for about half an hour before frying

Heat some oil preferably olive peanut or sunflower oil in a deep frying pan and, when really hot deep fry the fish one at a time for 3.5 minutes (depending on weight) pushing it down in the oil once of twice with a wooden spatula. The fish is perfectly done when the skin is crisp

Remove and drain in kitchen paper for 2.3 minutes. Serve right away, sprinkling

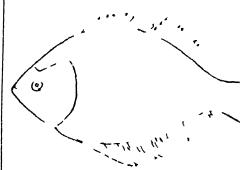


chillies and amehoor or lemon juice according to taste

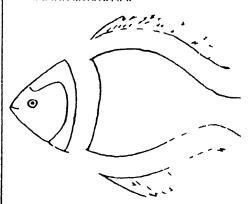
To serve carve along the centre bone as you would a dover sole

This makes an excellent snack. It may be eaten by itself

NOTE Some of the masala will come off during deep frying do not worry as there is enough left in the figh.



Whole fish for masala fry fish



In historidic, and making in islen for missila

To prepare the ginger juice grate the ginger and squeeze through a fine cloth or a clean handkerchief

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India

British	Metric	Ingredients	American		
14 oz-1 lb	400-500 g	flat fish (1)	14 oz 1 lt		
		cooking oil enough to deep fry			
		marinade			
1 large or 2 medium		lemon juice of	1 large or 2 medium		
1 tbsp	15 g	salt, to taste	1 tbsp		
		masala			
2 tsps	5 5 g	cumin powder	2 tsps		
3 tbsps	18 g gr	coriander, freshly round from whole seed	3 tbsps		
½ tsp	1 g	carum seed	½ tsp		
1 tbsp	15 mi	ginger juice	1 tbsp		
<u>‡</u> tsp	25 g	salt, to taste	½ tsp		
		gernish			
as per taste		amchoor CR lemon juice	as per taste		
1 tap	20	chilli powder	1 tsp		

FOCUS STATES

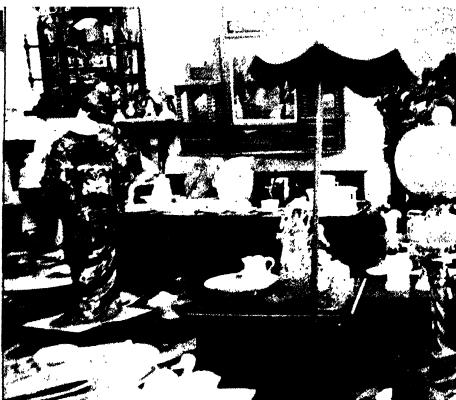
for slippers, I'll accept it. And I'll auction it," Arshad Mehrotra said seriously. The managing partner of Russell Exchange wasn't indulging in dramatics. At an embassy auction recently, he managed to get rid of a pair of imported tooth brushes, used. Clinching bid: Rs 275. That deal still baffles him. But the fact that such things can happen is what keeps the auctioning business on a roller coaster but never-say-die ride.

Stepping into Russell Exchange off Park Street is like a walk back in time. Furniture, cabinets stuffed with orphaned household clutter, chinaware, crumbling art decor pieces, an ancient projector, an even more ancient table fan, practically historic railway wagon wicker lamps, a derelict microscope, even a tattered doll that must have been loved by some child, now a lady or a grandmother, or dead and gone. A vast hall is crowned by a balcony that in days gone by must have been crammed with the town's prominent bejewelled ladies and men in suits puffing away on cigars. The air is choked with echoes of the past.

About half a dozen auction houses hug the area around Park Street and Russell Street—leftovers of the times when Calcutta was the 'Paris of the East'. Even after a unanimously acknowledged divedown in standards, our city is still the country's auction capital. The focus has sharply shifted from art to utility. They are a testimony to democracy—clients sweep the scale from directors of companies to the barefoot rickshawallah wanting a second hand untorn shirt for a few rupees. Everybody is convinced there's a great bargain to be had.

Arshad Mehrotra did a course in auctioning in London. And the difference between the business in the two countries is like "the earth and the sky". There's nothing remotely resembling a Sotheby's in India. In that Mecca of auctioning, there are three storeys, minutely computerised catalogues, various specialised auction halls where buyers the world over pitch in bids through the telephone or even by tele-conferences. Here the business is in a happy-go-lucky state of disorganisation.

The heart beat of auctioning is the valuation. It is the auctioneer's job to inform the seller what his goods could be worth. He could do independent on-hire valuation for clients too. The seller then fixes a bottom line—the reserve price—below which he wouldn't want his goods to change hands. It's all very well when the run-of-the-mill pots, pans, pyjamas, portables or even refrigerators, airconditioners are up for bid. The trouble is when heirlooms and the long-forgotten family trunks are dug up, and antiques find their way to the display.



Anything goes!

Come To Where

Some auction houses employ freelance 'experts' to valuate ---coins, paintings, a bronze piece or even an ancient cockroach-chewed manuscript. "There are too few expert valuators around. There's too much of haphazard knowledge," feels Dr

A good buy, a bargain and some bidding to boot. M. Raja gives a lowdown on what comes under the hammer at the city's auction houses

Photographs: Kushal Ray

M.S. Tanksalwalla, one of the city's leading collectors of non-Indian art ("I've got nothing against Indian art. But there is far too much of the modern stuff around, and there are too many fakes"). This elderly Parsi's house is a mini-museum of European and Chinese art. Sometimes, he's invited to be consultant to the Indian Museum's Purchasing Committee, previously regular buyers from the local auc-

tion house. "Especially when it comes to art, very few know how valuable or valueless a piece is."

Kamal Parashar, a businessman and collector of curios, has enjoyed pottering around in auction houses for 30 years.

If it's the auctions, it must be





knowledge. I know this is worth far more than Rs 100 Maybe thousands He paused. Who knows it may be price

Detween World War Lanc World War **B**II there was in avalanche of the finest in European art into India. The doorway was Calcutta. War inviged Europe was frantically trying to salv ge its valuables from the plundering. Huns, and Nizis When the Europeans begin leaving Free India most of the drawing room valuables hastily found their way into auction houses conveniently around elitist Park Street That was when the exodulof Indian antiques too began. Enterprising collectors ruthlessly played or local ignorance and practised civilised looting. An Australian worthy surnamed Johnson, who arrived in Calcutta a pauper ended up in Grand Hotel with in a year. By three years he had managed to haul away literally trunk loads of art stuff out of India. Places like Chowringhee Sales Bureau Victor Bros and Modern Exchange are merely skeletons now of their-lordly presence of Young debon in taken over a family busi ness that he once sulked was not my The new generation is marking Set De out a different wavelength. The changes have got to be equitable with them he says. The punch words. Everything has got a value. Nothing abstract. Psychology of the buyer. Mind games

The days when a royal house or a L zamind it wanted tellinge of scene or had fallen on hird time and were shoving out knough stock to fill an auction are gone with the wind. Now sources start from the bedriggled Kabuliwallih up wirds. At best i departing diplomat dumping most of his household goods These consular auctions draw the best crowds. People know the foreign goods are genuine. And they are up for grabs at throwaway prices

Or it could be the Cilcutta State Trans port having its left and Found goods There the buyers are a totally different sort says Casy ib They are the kind of people who would stick a knife in you and a k questions later. In an average day it office he could deal with a wide range of the social graph. In the morning at could be a safari suited after shave lotioned Marwari offering me a 555 cigarette. In the evenings. I could be smoking a beedi with a buyer

There are the tricky moments too. Like when stolen goods are indignantly disco vered by the original owner. Or like the time when a well known personality' calmly walked into Chowringhee Sales Bureau and offered a eye popping collection to be put up for sale a wash basin a broken iron pipe a few buckets. It was later found that the celebrity had a bone to pick with his landlord and thought this a brilliant idea to get even. The irate land lord calmed down only after being in formed that the whole motley collection was worth at the most Rs 120 and was just not worth further trouble

Less eccentric clients buy for or sell from their households and offices. People gather around the auction houses on a Sunday some had been mailed catalogues some had seen the advertisements in the papers, some come with the definite idea of buying something some hope to find something interesting enough to buy. And some others just come for the fun of it

Sanjay and Anu Anand are a pleasant young couple who have just moved into Calcutta Sanjay is the regional manager of his company. They had bought a dressing table at a good bargain at an auction recently And the best part is that since the auction houses are all close to each other in Calcutta one can easily go hopping from one place to another and be at many auc

(Continued on page 18)

The Auction Is

"There's no yardstick no foot rule for i valuation in India ' He pulled me over to a table and fished out a faded green earthen pot "Now this is supposed to cost about Rs 100 I know for a fact that this is a piece of ancient chinaware. From my limited

Sunday



' They (the foreign collectors) played or our gullibility remembers I anksalwalla 'Even now let's say some collector advertised for antique watches. The local might take three watches to him. The trained eye spots a valuable piece among the three He offers Rs 2000 for one of the watches and the local is thrilled. The remaining pieces are sold for a lesser price when even one of them could be worth Rs 20,000 How s the local to know?

. By the time the powers that he took enough notice to produce legislation- in dia Antiquities and Art Treasures Act it was 1972 And it was another unhappy case of locking the stable door after the horse had bolted The core of the Act. Section 14, Clause (3) says, 'Every per son who owns, controls, or is in posses sion of any antique specified in the notifica tion issued under subsection (1) shall reg ister such antiquities before the registrar office ""So nothing here is 'officially older than 100 years" wink the auctioneers

The heydays were over with the coming of the Eighties Now the consistent wistful tune is about "the good old days" Looking for curios, art pieces in auction houses here? You could be on a leather-hunt There's a different beat going

Curtain call for people like Rakesh Casyab of Chowringhee Sales Bureau

PANORAMA

There in the world is all the carbon dioxide going?

Scientists have been watching an apparent ecological magic trick for years. By burning fossil fuels humans have pumped billions of tons of carbon into the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide.

If all that gas remained in the air it would cause considerable trouble—trapping heat and hastening the suspected global warming trend, for example. Instead, a substantial portion of the gas has mysteriously disappeared. "There's a huge imbalance," says Lee Klinger of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo. "There's much more carbon dioxide being released than can be accounted for."

The hunt for the carbon "sink," as scientists call the unknown mechanism that accounts for most of the disappearance, is more than a matter of satisfing scientific curiosity.

As international pressure builds up in favour of setting global limits on carbon dioxide emissions, scientists are being called upon to predict future levels of the gas. Reliable predictions are vital, because such limits are likely to cost money and

jobs. Until the carbon sink is found and understood, scientists say such accuracy may be impossible.

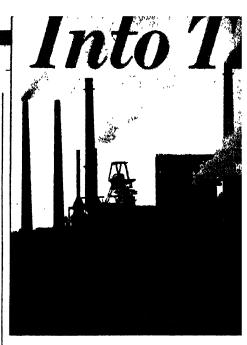
A more alarming theory is that vast quantities of carbon dioxide now being stored somewhere on the planet could be released suddenly by some triggering event, with potentially catastrophic results

"If you don't know what's on the other

Donald Smith reports on the mystery of the vanishing carbon dioxide

end of the rope, you should quit jerking," says environmental analyst Curtis Moore.

He points out that not all natural processes occur gradually. Water heated past a critical point turns to steam, for example. Avalanches tumble all at once, not in gentle slides. Lightning splits the air suddenly, not incrementally.



One possible site of a sudden release of carbon dioxide is the ocean, which for years has been storing dissolved carbon at great depths.

"I hesitate at being an alarmist," says David M. Glover of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. "But if the ocean starts to warm up, it's possible that this

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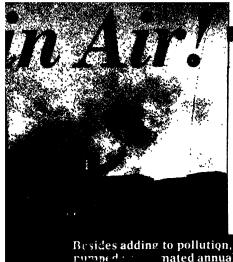
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Cameroon's Lake Nyos.

In what some blame on a violent event such as a volcanic eruption, landslide, or earth tremor, the lake spewed carbon dioxide that had been stored in its bottom. It was like uncorking a warm bottle of champagne. Some 1,700 people died as a ground-liugging cloud of invisible gas crept across the land. A similar eruption at nearby Lake Monoun in 1984 killed 37 people.

Besides adding to pollution, humans over the past decade have named annual average 5.3 billion tonnes of carbon moxide into the air by burning fossil fuels. Scientists are curious to know where all that gas has gone (National Geographic)

dissolved organic carbon will break down and release a sizable amount of carbon dioxide. The possibility is quite distinct, but we need more research, because it's very poorly understood."

Such a hypothetical eruption raises the spectre of a global disaster similar to a much smaller one that occured in 1986 at

Scientists estimate that over the past decade humans have been releasing into the atmosphere an average of 5.3 gigatons (billions of tons) of carbon annually by burning fossil fuels. But measuring devices have detected an average of three gigatons a year.

"We know the actual atmospheric increase of carbon with great precision," the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Pieter P. Tans says.

"That means 2.3 gigatons of carbon is going somewhere every year. But we don't know where."

The oceans have long been suspected as a major depository. Through photosynthesis, carbon dioxide is consumed by phytoplankton, microscopic ocean plants. When phytoplankton die, their husks sink to the bottom. Each carries a tiny amount of carbon with it.

But recent studies indicate that the oceans cannot account for the bulk of the vanishing carbon dioxide

Terrestrial plants also absorb carbon dioxide through photosyntheis. But scientists say it will be difficult to identify specific plants or regions of the planet that may be swallowing huge amounts of the gas.

One of the many suspects is peat lands. Bogs and bog forests absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide. Acid rain stimulates the growth of mosses and bog vegetation. Klinger believes this growth might have increased global absorption of the gas over the past 50 years. 'Peat lands are very potent ecological forces,' says Klinger. "There's no question that they play a major role in the cycle."



Chip off the Old Block

The favourite story that does its rounds in Egbert and Andrews is that whenever their boss Bhanu Parekh hits any town in north-eastern India in her auctioning tours, prices go up all round. Starting from the taxi drivers, the word spreads that 'Didi' is in town. Which means there's a big auction poised to happen nearby. Which means there's going to be an incoming deluge of moneyed buyers ripe for the plucking.

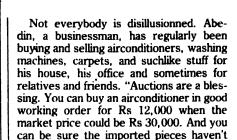
If you bump into this middle-aged spinster on the road, you'd probably think she's a mild schoolteacher in some impoverished school. Definitely not the commander of Asia's oldest auctioning house, the only woman auctioneer in the country. And you could count the women auctioneers in the world, at her level in the business, quite easily with the fingers of one hand. Bhanu Parekh is tough. She has to be. Standing up among a thousand odd men, under a sweltering sun, in some practically unheard of corner of the country or at some distant frontline army camp, shrieking her had off and hauling in business worth crores of rupees, is not for the wimps. Or for a nice lady with a six-figure income you migh think.

"My love for the business started from my childhood days," she says smiling gently. "My family is fully in the profession." The major inspiration was her father, a legend in the trade. The senior Parekh with his foghorn voice, and an incredible knack of spotting out flawed diamonds and pearls with naked eye and the tip of his tongue. The girl Bhanu learnt the alphabets of the business from the father who was revered among his peers. And she hasn't done too badly herself. She speaks Bengali, Hindi, English, has a

working knowledge of Gujarati and Punjabi. She is about to publish her book on the auctioning business—the first of its kind in the country. She gets frequently invited to lecture to post-graduates in management training schools. She has a private collection of art any museum would love to get its hands on. Couldn't have done better you'd say. Or say a lot more if you are a woman libber.

She has been in the business for 32 years—since 1952. "In those days, an auctioneer had a lot of authority—it was a very respected profession. This business requires a lot of expertise that only comes from experience. Unfortunately, now a lot of smaller, unscrupulous auctioneers have entered the profession and degraded it."

For her, it's the tingling satisfaction that comes out of conducting and auction successfully, of having fetched for her client a price he would n't have dared dream of, that keeps her going, "It's not easy." That's not hard to believe. "You've got to have the flair to boost bids, encourage bids, spot a potential buyer among the sometimes 2000 people assembled there."



got their parts substituted."

The dealers are the backbone of the business. They buy practically anything, shape them into working condition and resell them sometimes at the same auction house. And there are the brokers, the middlemen who bid as proxy buyers for well known collectors whose presence could shoot up the stakes. The middlemen are usually given a ceiling price. Invariably, these gents enter into deals with the auctioneer, have the final bid going at the ceiling price, and carve up a hefty commission.

The real big bucks lie with the 17-odd basically scrap iron auctioneers in the country. That's where the business is roaring. Egbert Andrews (E.A.), started by the British in 1888, is still leading the charge from its offices here in Dharamtallah. Run now by Bhanu Parekh, the only women auctioneer in her league in the country, Egbert Andrews is Asia's oldest existing auction house. Giants like McKenzie Lyall packed up about 30 years

Pick a bargain, any bargain



ions on the same Sunday," says Anu. They got conned once too. Having bought a supposedly antique dining table, they ater discovered to their horror an exactly similar piece in another auction house. "I near there are people who make these take antiques to order and sell them to the auction houses," says Sanjay. "Personally I feel the classifieds are a much safer way to buy and sell things. I recently sold my car for a very good price with very little trouble."

ago F A pioneered industrial auctioning in India

A few years back Lgbert Andrews shattered records when in a few hours it fetched for its client Bhilai Steel Plant a staggering Rs 1 73 00 000. On 28th May 1982, it auctioned a lot of ingot mould to a single buyer in two numities. The bid Rs 48, 16 000. It is the biggest single sell in the country to a single buyer in a single lot.

The buyers are factory owners or again dealers who re sell them to factories. The materials are metal scrap production line waste minor defect suffering products. Nothing is wasted says Egbert Andrews chief executive Y.N. Chaturve di. For instance 80 per cent of material fer foundries are from metal scrap.

These few auctioneers play a vital though not as yet recognised role in recycling resources—thrusting value to what was earlier considered bothersome tonnes of junk. Discarded aircraft tyres found their way to a little town in Rajas than called Laldon. There they were melted into tyres for camel carts. Truck load of battered army boots were trans formed into tar for roads. Residues of coal steel other heavy industries all have their eager buyers who inspect lots on days before the auction they pay 25 per cent of their buy on the spot the rest to be popped up within three days or they kiss goodbyc to the demand draft or briefcases full of cash that had exchanged han is on



Going, Going...

So there's a big old sofa at home you don't want but don't know quite what to do with it? Or you love snap ping up a good bargain—like a practically new almirah for about one third market price? An auction house could be the answer. Unlike other Indian cities where the auction business is almost dying out with one or two ancients still clinging on, Calcutta's auction houses are still on a binge. Maybe not as frisky as even a deacade earlier but still very useful, no bets against it

Sundays are when auctions are generally held. Saturday is inspection day You go over to an auction house and check to see if any of the goods on display interest you You could check its working order. The Saturday pap ers sometimes carry small advertise ments for auctions. The Sunday papers usually have a bigger splash, especially if it's an out-of the ordinary affair - like a consulate auction either at the consulate or at the auction house itself where departing diplomats unload all sorts of their imported household goods from airconditioners to dinner sets. Or a corporate auction where a company could be selling its unwanted office wares from furniture to typewriters Some auctioneers mail weekly catalogues to regulars. You could simply take pot luck on a Sunday

Auctioneers generally have varied timings when specific lots are put up for bid. Furniture could be in the mornings, electronics at noon, household knick knacks in the afternoon. It's best to confirm with the auctioneer on a preceding Saturday if you want to save time. Mostly auctioneers have the goods in senalised numbers and lots are brought up according to it.

While buying:

Goods on view are on a conditional 'as is where is' rule Auctioneers do specify when an item is up for bid whether it is in working order or not, but they do not guarantee its workabil ity or durability. That's upte you to find out. If the final bid is yours, the conductor announces your bid twice, calls to: your name and declares the item to you.

Shortly, a gent will poke you in the ribs and ask you to immediately pay 25 per cent of the value in cash. This is the earnest deposit. Within three days (some kindly auctioneers stretch it) you have to pay the balance along with whatever government taxes and yourself take delivery of the goods. If you don't pay in time, you loose the earnest deposit along with the goods.

While selling.

Lake whatever you have to sell to the auction house. If it is too large or too many to be carried around a valuer can come to you. You have two options of selling it. Fither through the reserved price or by the 'highest bidder'

The reserve price can be fixed by you independently or you could take the auctioneers advice. It's the price below which you wouldn't want to sell Anything above it is fine of course. But the auctioneer will not guarantee you the 'reserve price'. He will sell at any price that comes quite close to it.

The auctioneer will keep a commission on the sale ranging upwards from 10 per cent. It normally depends on the prospective volume of sale. The bigger the likely value, the smaller the commission. This is determined before the auction.

Some of the leading auction houses dealing in consumer goods:

Chowringhee Sales Bureau, 24B Park Street Tel 298676 Usually deals in household goods, furniture, art curios, antiques, sometimes even stuff like cut glass decanters

The Russell Exchange, 12 C Russell Street Lel 298974 Deals in furniture curios, glass and clina, house hold goods and at times clothes."

Modern Exchange, 12B Russell Street Tel 290756 Deals in turni ture, china ware and so on

All the above deal in electronic and electrical goods

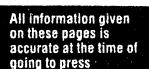
Dalhousie Exchange, 13F Russell Street Fel 299309 Basically deals in furniture

auction day

These industrial auctioneers haven t as yet got their role defined by clear laws. To add to their woes, the government shoved in the MSTC -the Metal Scrap Irading Corporation— to auction for public sector companies. The private Government auctioneers like to dismiss the MSTC as a bunch of bureaucratic bung lers.

But these Egbert Andrew types seem to have then future well assured, at least

That's compared the consumer goods auction houses. Itwari a man who has spent nearly a lifetime in the business remembers fondly the days when somebody like the Maharaja of Jhargram state would want to have about five truckloads of stuff like paintings carpets, curios chandeliers auctioned. Days when a huge grandfather clock with a dozen tunes reserve priced at Rs 3000 sold at Rs 25 000. For them, the business of auctioning is a nostalgic how green was my valley then feeling. ■



REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

- Daddy: Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666)—noon.
- A film by Mahesh Bhatt, starring Anupam Kher, Pooja Bhatt, Manohar Singh, Soni Razdan, Neena Gupta and Avtar Gill. The music is by Rajesh Roshan.
- Fatch: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road: 241383)- 4 shows. Directed by Talat Jani and with

Directed by Talat Jani and with music by Naresh Sharma, the cast includes Sunjay Dutt, Mohsin Khan, Sonam, Ekta, Shafi Inamdar and Suresh Oberoi.

• Ghar Parivaar: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 478141)—4 shows; Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Malancha (Regent Park)—3 shows.

Directed by Mohanji Prasad and with music by Kalyanji Anandji, the film stars Rajesh Khanna, Moushumi Chatterjee, Rishi Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Shafi Inamdar and Asrani.

• Gunehgar Kaun: Opera (Lenin Sarani; 281849), Uttara (Bidhan Sarani; 552200), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757).

An action drama, starring Mohsin Khan, Sangeeta Bijlani, Sujata Mehta and Raj Babbar.

• Maine Pyar Kiya: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917)—4 shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Bhagyashree are the lead pair in this film, directed by Sooraj R. Barjatiya. The music is by Raam Laxman.

• Lohe Ke Haath: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpúr Road; 277273).

Anooradha Patel, Javed Khan, Rita Bhaduri and Gulshan Grover comprise the main cast. The film is directed by S.S. Arora and the music is by Usha Khanna.

• Majboor Ladki (A): New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147), Rupali (Ashutosh Mookerjee Road; 474403).

Directed by Ram Pahwa and with music by Kishore Singh, the cast includes Pankaj Dheer, Sri Prada, Kunica, Alok Nath and Javed Khan.

Mithi Mithi Raaten (A):
 Society (Corporation Place;
 241002)—4 shows.

- A biographical sketch of a mod-
- Mohabbat Zindagi Hai:
 Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road;
 244822)—4 shows.
- A re-release, starring Dharmendra, Rajshree and Mehmood.
- Patthar Ke Phool: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—4 shows.

A love story, starring Salman Khan and Raveena Tandon. The film is directed by Anant Balani and the music is by Ram Laxman.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664)—12, 3, 6, 9.

Yet another love story, starring Salman Khan and debutante Chandm. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor.

• Yodha: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138), Basusree (S.P., Mukherjee Road; 484808), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270).

Directed by Rahul Rawail and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Sunny Deol, Sunjay Dutt, Sangeeta Bijlani and Danny.

Bengali Films

• Amar Sangee: Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3 shows.

A re-release of this Sujit Guha film which has Prasenjit and Vijayeta in the lead. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

• Beder Meye Josna: Rupbam (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

One of the recent big hits, starring Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh. Others in the cast are Saifuddin, Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Soma, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarnath and Bulbul.

• Bidhir Bidhan: Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567), Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282)—3 shows.

Arun Govil, Satabdi Roy, Ranjit Mullick, Sumitra Mukherjee, Papia Adhikari, Mohan Choti, Bejoy Mohanty, Sangeeta Das and Tapas Paul comrpise the main cast. The film is directed by Mohammed Mohsin and the music is by Akshay Mohanty.

• Prashna?: Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515). Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666)—3 shows.

Directed by Sharan Dey and with music by Panchanan Chatterjee, the cast includes Prasenjit, Deepankar De, Subhendu Chatterjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee, Rabi Ghosh, Gita Dey, Ratna Ghosal and Indrani Dutta.





Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Chetna Jalan in the play, Sakharam Binder

Special Lyents

24 March: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the Hindi play, Sakharam Binder, based on the man-woman relationship, with Kulbhushan Khar-banda in the lead. Written by Vijay Tendulkar and directed by Shyamanand Jalan, the cast also includes Chetna Jalan, Shakil Khan, Pradip Roy and Baishakhi Marjit.

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street: 225215/3516). 27 March: 6.30 pm

Pancham Vaidic presents Saoli. Mitra's Kathaa Amrita Samaan.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road: 289936). 28 March: 6.30 pm

Nandikar will stage Sankhapurer Sukanya, directed by Rudraprasad Sengupta.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302).



the cast includes Raj Mukhopadhyay, Subhasish Pa Saikat Sengupta, Lipik Bhattacharya, Vidya Bhuas Sharma Sheela Misra, Birmal Da Dipika Das, Santanu Lahir Sulagna Mukhopadhyay an Santanu Gangopadhyay.

At Gyan Manch. 28 March: 6.30 pm; 29 March

3 pm & 7 pm Anamika Kala Sangam presen the musical play, Carry C Bombay, produced by Burjor Pat Productions, Bombay, and writte and directed by Bharat Dhabolka The music is by Louis Banks.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespea Sarani: 449086).

30 March: 6 pm

Surabhika presents a Kathi recital by Amita Dutt and orchestra conducted by 1 Balsara.

At Kala Mandir.

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutte-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915; Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Ar. (6): Al-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2025. London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7):

Al-132/1328 at 1230. Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr.

(4): SU-537 at 1625. Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1825.

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanol: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0755; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0905. * Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-

Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1755; Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1905.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-185 at 0630.

Amman-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184 at 0800.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-420 at 1310.

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Bengkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): 1C-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4, 7): (C-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1530.

.Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): RA-

213 at 1430. Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (3, 6): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (dally): BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935.

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr. (3, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (daily): BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855. Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5):

BG-698 at 1950. Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 1910.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (2): KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India wmx

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (2): Ai-101 at 0230. Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): Al-1328

at 1230.

Indian Airlines a

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0750 and IC-274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-765 at 1700; Arr. (daily): IC-766 at 2210.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-771 at 0610; Arr. (daily): IC-772 at 1200.

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1545.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (dally): IC-410 at 0815.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340; Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0800; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at

Calcutte-Agertals: Dep. (daily): IC-743 at 1330, Dep. (3, 5, 6, 7): Printed here is the regular indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266889, 262417, 569433, 569641/2/3/4/5 and 569633.

IC-241 at 0700, Dep. (1, 2, 4): IC-241 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-744 at 1600, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1350, Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 0900. Calcutts-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 1400; Arr. (daily): IC-202

at 1730. Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily): IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1320.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (daily): IC-255 at 1050; Arr. (daily): IC-256 at 1530.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-270 at 2040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-219 at 0840; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-220 at 1320. Caloutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 7): IC-277 at 1745; Arr. (1, 2, 7): IC-278 at 2215.

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 0700; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at Calcutta-Imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 6) IC-259 at 1330; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC 260 et 1610.

Varudoot II

Calcutta-Agartala-Imphal: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-727 at 0530; Arr. (1, 3 5): PF-728 at 1120.

Celcutte-Agartele-Silchar: Dep (7): PF-729A at 0550; Arr. (7): PF 730A at 1050.

Calcutta-Shillong-Guwahati Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-701 at 1140; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-702 a 1615.

Calcutte-Agertele-Kamelpur-Kalleshahar-Agertele-Calcutte Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-729 at 0550; Arr (2, 4, 6): PF-730 at 1040.

Calcutta-Slichar-Shillong. Guwahati-Silchar-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-701 at 1100; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-702 at 1715.

Calcutta-Rourkela: Dep. (1, 3, 5). PF-715 at 0600; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF 716 at 0855.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Jorhat-Lilebari-Dibrugerh-Tezu: Dep. (2, 6): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (2, 6): PF-710 at 1840.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jorhet-Lileberi-Dibrugarh: Dep. (4): PF-709 at 0815; Arr. (4): PF-710 at 1750.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur-Jornat-Lilaberi-Dibrugarit-Tezus Dep. (7): PF-709 at 0600; Arr. (7): PF-710 at 1705.

Calcutta-Alzawi-Silchar Guwahati: Dep. (1, 3 5 7): PF-

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta

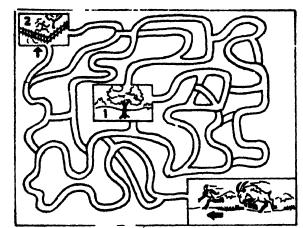
PF-705 at 0915; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): PF-706 at 1620. Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-729A at 1130; Arr. (1, 8, 5): PF-730A at 1410. Calcutta-Aizawi-Agartaia-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-705 at 0910 and PF-7298 at 1310; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-706 at 1255 and PF-730B at 1655. Calcutta-Jamahedpur-Ranchi-Patna: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-725 at 0550; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-726 at 1115
Calcutta-Jamahedpur: Dep. (2,

4, 6): PF- 717 at 0550; Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718 at 0745.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-707 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-708 at 0855.

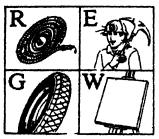
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Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn	Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311	19-00	Delhi-Kalka Maii	8-30	2312	- -				
3005	19-20	Amritaar Mail	8-05	3006	8003 8002	20-40 19-20	Madras Mail Bombey Meil via Nagpur	7-00 8-00	6004 8001
3003 2381	20-00 9-15	Sombay Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004 2382	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	5-00 15-05	2859
2301	9-10	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex- press via Gaya-Varanasi	18-00	2362	8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	8033
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
		Arr-Wed. Fri. & Sun.			2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex-	11-50	2842
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304			press		
		press via Patna			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express	13-45	2612
		Dep-Mon. Wed. Frl. & Sun.			į.		Dep—Tues		
2301	10.00	Arr—Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat.	11 00	0000	8013	17-30	Arr-Sun. Tata Steel Express	10-20	8014
2301	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a week	11-30	2302	8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	8012
ļ		DepMon. Tues, Thurs, Frl. &			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	8006
		Sun.			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	8016
		Arr-Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. &			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8008
		Sun.			8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via	7-45	8410
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	2374			Naraj		
		press Tri-Wkly			2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	2822
		Dep—Tues. Fri. & Sat.			0045	11-10	press	14-55	8046
2547	13-15	Arr—Tues. Wed. & Sat. Purbenchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4 4=	2548	8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex-	17'00	OU40
2047	13-10	prose	4-15	2548	8017	16-45	Purulie Express	11-20	8018
		DepMon. & Thurs.				.5 45	Dep-Except Saturday		
		Arr—Thurs, & Mon.			1		Arr-Except Sunday		
		_			2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan-	22-15	-
3009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand	7-20	3010	Į		drum Central Express		
		Chord	40.45	0000	ļ		Monday only	40.45	
3007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex-	18-15	3008	-	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	2601
		press via Main Line					- Guwahati Express		
3011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	_	14-10	Saturday only Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	_	14-10	Guwahati Weekiy Express	10-40	2010
3021	22-00	Mithila Express	5-00	3022	l		(yia Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
6659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660	ł		Thursday only		
3317	6-10	Black Plamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	_
3029	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030			Terminus Weekly Express		
3035	18-20	Asensol Express	8-45	3036			(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3031	21-00	Denepur Express	6-35	3032	2652	22-35	Saturday only Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	2651
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6-00	3072	2002	22.33	Superfact Express (via	13-40	2001
5071	-L	Dep-Tues, Thurs, & Sat.	0.00	0012	1		Visakhapatnam & Madras)		
		Arr-Mon. Thurs. & Sat.					Dep-Fri. & Sun		
3015	9-55	Santiniketan Exprese	15-40	3016	!		Arr-Tues. & Fri.		
					2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	_
1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express	7-30	1172	1		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
		Dep—Tues, & Wed. Arr—Set, & Sun.			İ		& Cuttack) Wednesday only		
3327	15-25	Shektipunj (Chopen) Ex-	7-30	3328	l	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
JJEI	15-63	press	, -00	~~=	_	17-10	Weekly Express (via Howrah	10-40	2010
		Dep & Arr-Mon. & Fri.			l		& Cuttack)		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express	10-40	5050	1		Monday only		
		Dep & Arr-Sunday			2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	-
					İ		minus Weekly Express (via		
							Howrah)		
					l	44.45	Thursday only Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2609
					-	14-10	Patna Weekiy Express (via	13*40	ZOUD
							Howrah)		
							Wednesday only		
		O							
		Sealdah					•		
3143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	ENQUI	RIES: For	round the clock information of	Eastern F	lailway
3153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154	trains.	please di	al 203545-54 for in-coming train	a: 202636	-44 for
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152	all oth	er inform	nation. For information about	recervation	ine on
3103	18-20	Shegirathi (Laigole) Express	10-25	3104	Easter	n and Bo	uth Eastern Railways trains, dis	203600 (from 9
5185	12-40	Chhepra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186			weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm c	on Sunda	ys and
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JUNIOR WHIRE THE KELFMON



SAFE TRIP! Goat chases man (arrow) Men seeks tree (1) Men runs to fence (2) Men escapes Can you trace path?

● TAKES MONTHS! Find the name of a month in each sentence 1. The inchworm arched its back. 2. Ben gave Tom a yoyo. 3. Lisa's beau. Gus took off pending is 4 young.



SHOW ANIMAL INSTINCTS
See if your can find the names of four animals using picture-clues above Here's how

First identify the subject pictured in each panel. Next add given let ters to letters of the subject is name. Then rearrange letters as necessary (Example Add 0 to TAG get

goat)
When you have found the four animals above here are some

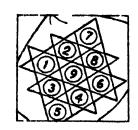
more to puzzie out

1 Add K to MONEY 2 Add U
to MAP 3 Add M to LACE 4
Add I to SNOB 5 Add A to
MALL

Proture ciue an maia Here Ermine Tiger Wessel Others 1 Monkey 2 Puma 3 Camei 4 Bleon 5 Llame eSUM SWITCHI Chancing upon the diagram, below, a math student noted that 7 at top, times 28, next row down, equals 196, at centre, but that this does not hold true of 5 times 34, below

"Hold on!" said he "I can remedy this," whereupon he placed 156 at sentre and juggled the other six digits How?

semit to bus got he 6% semit 5 beligibles et. 39 build bill 4 bus got he 6% semit 5 beligibles et.





CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differ ences in drawing cetaile between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences I fleetitine is less as flee is missing Σ . Ann and mep are proved a Gallerian is distributed a Statesbard in missing

HERE HERE! Moving may be hectic but it is also an exciting time Color code 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Lt purple 9—Dk green

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		11137:4
•,•	,, -, -,	

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

FEASIBLE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points and one members and seed



hat is the story of the Song of Roland or Chamson de Roland?" asks A. Singhal, Patna.

Company of

The 12th century French epic poem, The Song of Roland, is preserved in its finest form in a manuscript now in the Bodielan Libary at Oxford. Its author, a Norman poet, Turoid, was not the first to tell the story; the minstrel Taillefer, according to a 12th century writer, sang to Duke William before the battle of Hastings a song of 'Charlemagne and Roland and Oliver, and those other knights who died at Roncevaux.



Charlamagne's empire

The poem describes how the great warrior, Roland, nephew of Charlemagne, was left to guard the passes of the Pyrenees while the Emperor, with the main body



11th Question: To superstitious Russian peasants, Gorbachev is a cursed man, not for his political failures, but for what completely different reason? (Mrs Rama Nandy, Hind Motor High School, P.O. Hind Motor—712233, Dist Hooghly.)

Ans: According to Russian folklore, a wine stain on the forehead of a person (similar to that of Gorbachev) signifies that the person is cursed.

of the crusading army, returned to France after receiving the submission of the Saracens of Spain. With Roland were Oliver, his brother-in-arms, and a small force of knights. But Roland's stepfather, Ganelon, who hated his stepson, betrayed him and his men to the Saracens. As soon as Charlemagne's army was well on its way over the Pyrenees, a vasy army of Saracens attacked the rear-guard. If Roland had sounded his famous horn, the Olifant, before the battle began, Charlemagne could have turned back to save him; but Roland was too proud to summon help until nearly all his small force was slain. Then, in order to secure Christian burial for himself and his men, he blew three mighty blasts on the horn. Though Charlemagne hurried back as soon as he heard the sound of the horn,

he was too late; Roland and all the rear-guard were dead. The Emperor avenged them not only by defeating the remainder of the Spanish Saracens, but also by slaying the ruler of all the enemy, Baligant, and annihilating his great army. Then he returned sorrowfully to France to give honourable burial to Roland and Oliver. The traitor, Ganelon, after a trial by combat, was condemned and put to death. The poem ends with an exhortation to the Emperor by the Archangel Gabriel in a vision once again to take up arms for his faith.

The poem is a stirring call to the feudal lords of the early 12th century to lay aside personal feuds which hinder the work of God, and to take the Cross and fight for their faith against the Saracens, as the Emperor Charlemagne does in the

poem. Ganelon was jeopardising the cause of Christlanity when he caused the death of knights who were on crusade. Even Roland, the great warrior, has to suffer because he sacrificed himself and his knights rather than his pride. It is Charlemagne, the champion of Christianity, for whom God performs miracles, and who never flags in God's service, who is the real hero.

The story of Roncevaux was one of the most famous of the French epic tales. It inspired poets in many countries for three centuries, and then again, in the 19th century, with the revival of interest in medieval literature, the story fired writers, for example, Victor Hugo, to try to recapture something of the spirit of the medieval epic. How deeply the story has sunk into the European tradition is shown by the way it has served as a continuing inspiration to artists and poets right down to modern times.

Poatscript: This evening at 6 pm, at the Dalhousie Institute the all-India final of Bata's North Star Quiz. Teams from Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore and Calcutta. Who will be the champions? Come and find out.

QUESTIONS

1. What is 'Operation
Baireng'? (Surit:
Baireng'? (Surit:
Baireng'? (Surit:
Bairenda, Bolangir 45)
1. Which Hind film recently cisested a record for selling the maximum number of selling the maximum number of selling cisesteles? (Arun Later Purphit, Galtutta?)
1. Afficin is the world's arganizmanufacturer of severes? (Marioi Kumar. Bairt. Patratu 43)
1. Is which film did the late follow make her debut?
1. Severes Suria Transcria, alcutta 56;
2. Afficin Frantizic;
2. Otherio Mazonindaar;

Boral 5)

8. Who said, "As a girl I loved to whistle, to run and climb trees. This was supposed to be unledylike. Perhaps that is why to this day I am prejudiced against the word"? (Entesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)

7. Which Rim did Affred Hitchipock make twios!" (Anjum Kumar, Panonti 1)

8. What was the Atlantic Charter? (Nignative Kumar, Sartiar, Alignao) 1)

8. What was the Atlantic Charter? (Nignative Kumar, Sartiar, Alignao) 1)

8. What words: "Annules the tens of thousands of microstrate the tens of thousands of names of microstrate that the tens of thousands of nignature the tens of thousands of night words."

graciousness and serentities and royal highnesses and the like, the name of Ashoka shines, and shines almost alone, a star"? (Roy George, Dimapur)

18. What is the national anthem of Vatioan City? (S.S. Venkateswaran and Arun G. Kurup, Celcutta 26)

ANSWERS

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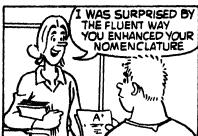






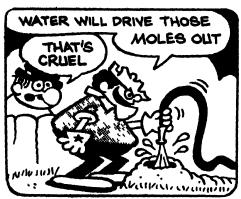








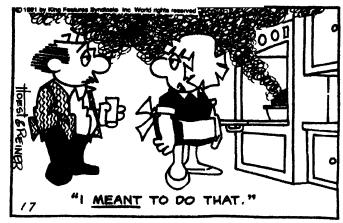


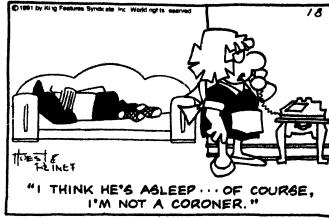








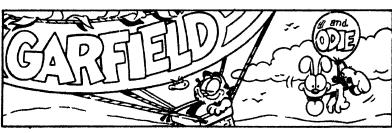


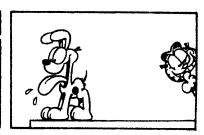






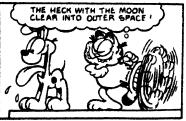
GARFIELD By Jim Davis

























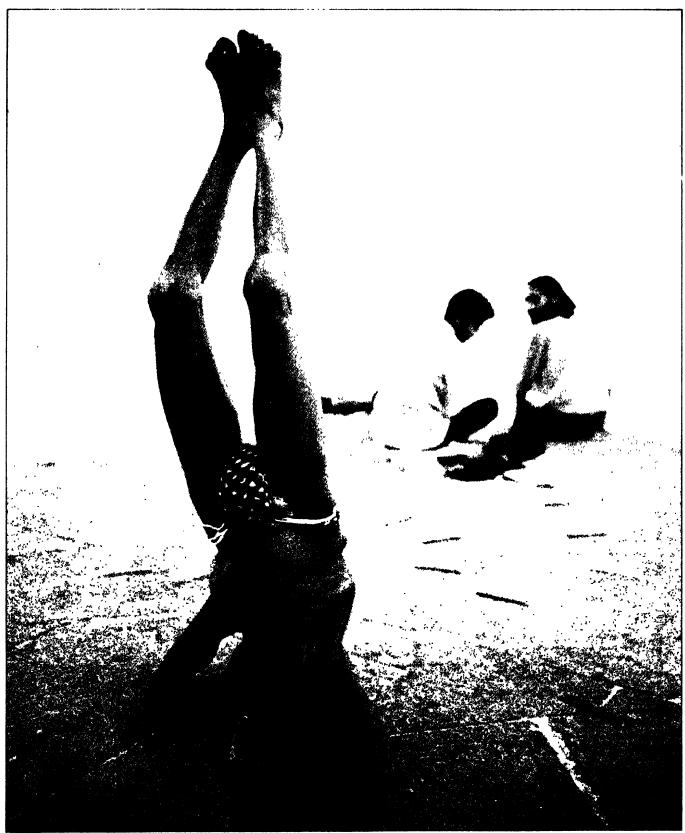








IMAGES Selected by Sunil K. Dutt



Photograph: Pathik DebMallik

The Premier Philosophy: Continuous refinement. Constant commitment.



I N JUST A FEW MINUTES, YOU COULD CREATE A MARBLE FLOOR ON THIS PAGE.



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POST MORTEM

City of Stress

I thoroughly enjoyed reading 'Coping With Calcutta' (March 3). As a railway employee before my retirement, I had to visit Delhi, Bombay. Madras and Bangalore, but never did I find these cities as thickly populated as Calcutta.

Stress is a natural part of a Calcuttan's life, but it is also a city of joy which pulsates with life and is as vibrant as a tuning fork hit by a missile, as one of the people is quoted as having said. We also have the word of Dominique Lapierre on this.

P.C. Dasgupta Calcutta

■ M. Raja has raised an interesting question, but has failed to provide an insightful answer. To him, the mechanism of such stress management still remains a puzzle. It is possible to identify a few ways in which the Calcuttans come to terms with stress.

One such technique is vandalism, and the best example is the mob behaviour that takes place on Calcutta roads after a traffic accident. Instant justice is meted out and invariably, the concerned vehicle (and

This, then, is Calcutta



maybe a few more in the vicinity) is burned and more often than not the offending driver is lynched. Nowhere else in civilised society does this kind of jungle law prevail.

Two reasons connected closely with the peculiar problems faced by the denizens of Calcutta can explain such behaviour.

It is very important for any person to believe that he has at least some control over his surroundings. Failure to do so could result in helplessness and hopelessness, leading ultimately to a breakdown of his personality structure. Since the average Calcuttan has little control over the essential factors of daily life which should otherwise be taken for granted (for example, power, transport, clean atmosphere), he resorts to such vandalism to protect his ego from succumbing to the stresses caused by their absence. In another way, phenomena such as mob violence can be explained in terms of the person's attempt to maintain equity with the society. When one feels that he has been getting a raw deal from society, one tries to get even by exploiting the various loopholes that exist in the society

Apart from vandalism, the other frequently used stress management technique by the Calcuttans is displacement. It is true that citizens can only fume at the politicians and the bureaucrats who are responsible for most of the ills of the city, but who are beyond one's reach of influence. So, when the authority figure is someone not too high and mighty, he becomes an easy target and ail the suppressed anger and hostility is displaced towards him. A commonly observed sight in Calcutta is of people engaged in heated arguments with bus drivers, conductors and post office employees, and on many occasions, getting completely carried away and coming to blows.

This kind of physical violence is in fact a symbolic release of the tensions caused by the various stress factors impinging upon the daily lives of the people.

The people in Calcutta do have stress management techniques, but it is for them to judge how productive or counterproductive these are for themselves and for their city.

Jayesh Ranjan,

Fellowship student in behavioural sciences, IIM,

Calcutta

What, No Heat?

We were waiting eagerly for a long and detailed article on the International Film Festival of India in Madras. But 'Heat and Dust' (February 10) was disappointingly short. You should have featured the IIFI '91 as a cover story.

Most of the photographs were also tame. We were expecting some hot stills and at least one good one from *The Sheltering Sky*. Sandip Munshi,

Hazinagar (W.B.)

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The Telegraph

31 MARCH 1991



Pranab Mukherjee is back. What makes the man so indispensable?

Rajesh Khanna first crystallised the concept of 'Superstar' in the early Seventies. Now, 25 years after his storming of the Bombay citadel, he has practically called it a day and hinted that it will be politics for him henceforth.

18 A look at some of the most interesting gold coins of India.

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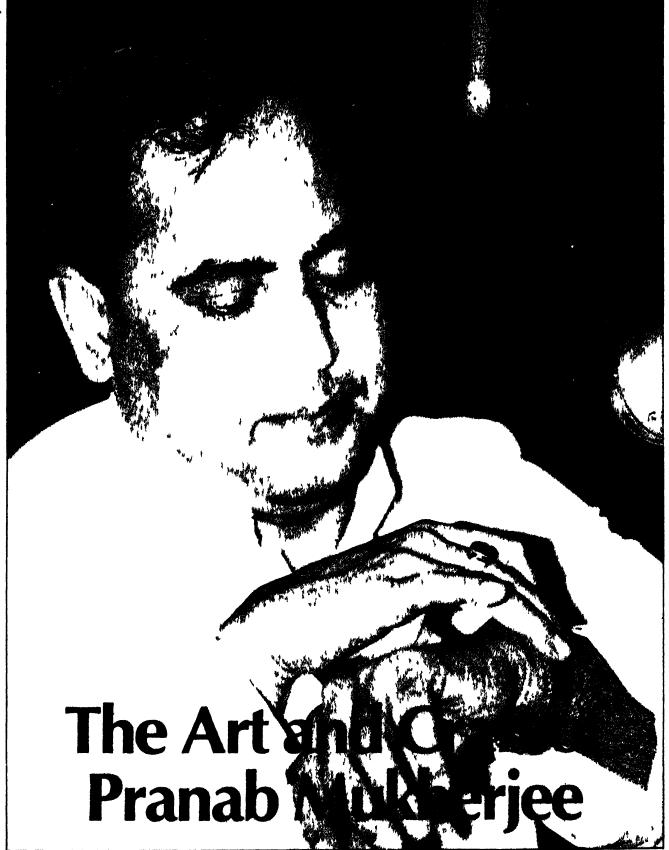
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Cover, Sondeep Shankar

Ohera Va Jayner



The prediction was made at a time when no one believed it. Pranab Mukherjee was facing one of the most difficult times in his political career. It was January 1985. His mentor and leader Indira Gandhi had been assassinated by her bodyguards a few months earlier. Her son, Rajiv Gandhi, who succeeded her as Prime Minister, decided to keep him out of the government. From being one of the most powerful politicians in the country, Pranab was reduced to an ordinary citizen. It was a time for harsh realities, not day dreams. No one, therefore, took note of the prediction made by an astrologer to Pranab. He presaged: "You will reach the pinnacle of your political career when you are 57 years old. You will enjoy powers that even in the past you had not." Today, after more than six years, things have improved for the former Union finance minister. The prediction no longer seems far-fetched. Pranab is now just a few months short of his 57th birthday.

The dhoti-kurta clad, Bengalı babu who came to Parliament on a Rajya Sabha ticket 22 years ago, is a changed man today. The former Union minister and Congress(I) leader, Ajit Panja, who met Pranab for the first time in 1966 when the latter was in the Bangla Congress, was not very impressed by him. "He was speaking at a symposium in Calcutta. But there was nothing remarkable about him at that time," recalls Panja. But today, Pranab is regarded as one of the shrewdest politicians in the country. Even Panja has changed his opinion about him. "As a politician, he is like a fifth generation computer, who can rattle off names, figures, dates and even the minutest details of an event that took place 20 years back without batting an eyelid." He goes on to add, "Pranab-babu never seems ruffled. He can keep his cool even while discussing the most serious problems.

Others, however, find in him a man of "average intelligence" who tries to "impress people by quoting figures and details about matters of little significance". His detractors describe him as a scheming person who deals ruthlessly with anyone who rubs him the wrong way. There are others who even refuse to be impressed by his past political record. According to a noted political columnist, Pranab's per-formance in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet was not very impressive. "True, he became the number two man in her Cabinet, but that was the most lacklustre period of Mrs Gandhi's political career.

Buth the State

Despite holding some of the most important ministerial and party portfolios in the past, Pranab Mukherjee does not come across as being a very powerful figure. The short, plump, bespectacled man gives you the impression of a college teacher. It is difficult to make out what

goes on in his mind as he stares at you from behind his glasses when you speak to him. His replies are short and to the point. It is only when you prod him further with queries that he begins to open up. He then floods you with so much detail and information that it is difficult to note down everything. He rattles off figures and amounts of budgetary support and financial assistance to various projects during his tenure as finance minister as if they were all written down on a piece of paper in front of him. "I always had a good memory," he says. "Since my childhood I had to read a book once to remember everything.

In between he relights his pipe before emphasising a point. Pointing at the pipe, he smiles and says, "I was a non-smoker

Unlike Siddhartha Shankar Ray, Pranab Mukherjee has opted for a quiet comeback. But his growing importance more than makes up for the lack of fanfare. PRANAY SHARMA meets the quintessential Bengali babu

when I first came to the capital. It was Kalvan Rov (the late CPI MP from Asansol) who introduced me to cigar smoking in 1972. I picked up the habit of smoking a pipe three years later when Debkanta Barooah, our party leader from Assam, presented me with a pipe.

Pranab can be a charmer when he wants, but he seldom allows people to get to know him closely. "I'm very choosy about my friends. I cannot open up with everyone," he says. An avid reader, his interest varies from books on political science, sociology, autobiography to contemporary novels. Alberto Moravia is his favourite novelist. He is also a devout Hindu and spends at least an hour every morning doing his pujas.

Pranab Mukherjee does not believe in stars and astrologers. "My wife is the only one who guides me. I don't depend on the astrologers for that," he says with a smile. But he doesn't deny that astrologers come to him and try to make predictions about his future.

ike any other politician, Pranab Mukheriee has had his share of ups and downs in his career. As finance minister in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet, he has the rare distinction of having placed the Budget for three consecutive years-1982, 1983 and 1984. Till date he is the only leader from Bengal who had simultaneously been the member of all the important committees of the Congress Party—the Cabinet committee on political affairs, the Congress Working Committee and the Congress Parliamentary Board. In 1984, a foreign magazine adjudged him as one of the five best finance ministers in the

But for a man who rose to become the second most powerful political figure in the country, there was very little in his earlier vears to suggest his subsequent success. In 1935, Pranab was born into a family of freedom fighters in the Kirnahar area of Birbhum district in West Bengal. His father. Kamada Kinkar Mukheriee, was a noted freedom fighter and leader of the Congress Party. The Quit India movement and the freedom struggle did impress the young boy, but it was much later that he was attracted to politics. "I am not a product of the freedom movement," says Pranab. "I was impressed by the events but I was drawn into politics much later in my life." A double MA in history and political science, he also has a law degree. He started his career as a lecturer in a local college. While in the teaching profession he started getting involved in political acti-

In 1966, he joined the Bangla Congress under Ajoy Mukherjee's leadership and soon became a secretariat member of the organisation. In 1969, he got a chance for making it big in the political field when his name came up as a probable candidate of the party to contest the Lok Sabha elections from the Midnapore seat. However, the change in the political scenario brought about a realignment in the political forces. Krishna Menon was nominated as the Independent candidate for the seat and the Left parties along with the Bangla Congress decided to support him. Subsequently, Menon won. But Pranab's chance

came within a few months. He was elected to the Raiva Sabha on a Bangla

Congress ticket.

It was while participating in a debate on bank nationalisation that he was noticed by Mrs Gandhi. The Prime Minister who was sitting in her chamber, was impressed by Pranab's speech and wanted to meet him. But her party colleagues had a tough time finding Pranab as he was hardly known to the other members of the House. Finally he was tracked down and taken to Mrs Gandhi. The Prime Minister told the young man who was overawed by her presence that she was impressed by his

speech. Pranab managed to mumble a 'Thank you' and left the chamber. But for the rest of the day he felt elated.

In 1971, the Bangla Congress merged with the Congress and thus began the rise of Pranab Mukherjee in the party. In 1973, he was inducted in the ministry by Mrs Gandhi as a deputy minister in the ministry of industrial development. Subsequently he held a number of portfolios in the Union ministry. But it was in the 1980s that Pranab not only became the number two in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet when he was made the finance minister in 1982, but one of her most trusted advisors. Despite having lost the Lok Sabha election in 1980 from Bolpur, Mrs Gandhi made him the Union finance minister after getting him elected to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

In his climb up the political ladder, Pranab left behind a trail of political rivals. Equally ambitious, they all bided their time, waiting for the eventual downfall. Despite having held important portfolios in the Union ministry Pranab is often charged with having shown little interest in Bengal. This could be one of the reasons why he did not have a very strong following in the state. unlike his other colleagues, A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury, Ajit Panja or Priya Ranjan Das Munshi. "It is not true that I did nothing for Bengal," counters Pranab, "but I refuse to make political mileage out of it." He argues that the developmental projects in the other ministries would not have been possible had the money not been sanctioned by the finance ministry.

n interesting aspect of Pranab's poli-Atical life is his failure to win even a single election. He stood twice in the Lok Sabha elections, from Malda in 1977 and from Bolpur in 1980, but was defeated both times. He has always been elected to Parliament on Raiva Sabha tickets. Though he refuses to admit it, this fact continues to haunt him. His close associates point out that it makes him feel as if he is not very popular among the masses.

Ajit Panja points out that though Pranab is an "asset" for the party on formulating its programmes and policies, he is not very "suitable" for day-to-day interaction with the workers at the grassroot level. "His speeches are excellent for an educated crowd, but he fails to get his message across at rural gatherings." He recalls an incident when he accompanied Pranab to Nadia to address a meeting in a village. In his customary style, Pranab started quoting figures and amounts of how many crores had been spent by the government for the uplift of the rural poor. After a while one of the farmers in the crowd groaned and told the person sitting next to him, "E dekhi khali kotir katha boley.

A. Well, I don't have a formal po I have been made the chairman party's economic advisory cell. I a look after the publication, Zero Hour; am being given a lot of work. Besides: am a member of the purty's policy plan ning group and doing a lot of work on policy matters. I am happy to have returned to the mainstream. Q: Having left the Congress why did

you return:

A: I didn't leave the party. I was expel led. And I didn't want it either. After my expulsion I wanted to project myself as the real Congressman but peo-

ple rejected me. I realised that a Congressman cannot fit outside the orga nisation. It was exceedingly difficult for me to work with those who were essentially non-Congress. I realised that having grown in the Congress tradition I would not be able to survive. Moreover, people did not want to see me outside the Congress, they wanted me to be in the party. I could never feel, at home outside the Congress tradi-

Q: How would you describe your relations with Mr Rajiy Gandhi now:

A: We have a good relationship. It is very cordial. It is much better than what it was at the time of my expulsion.

Q: To what extent was Mr Santosh Mohan Dev responsible for your return!

A: He played a major role in it. There were others too, mainly senior party members who were unhappy about my expulsion. They talked to Mr Gandhi to take me back. But it was Santosk who took the initiative and suggested to the party president that I could be used for campaigning for the party candidates in the Tripura Assembly elections in president's poste I believe your name

fin 1985. I i

Q: Though you are one of

Tahole bujhi aamaader lok noye (He seems to be talking only about crores, perhaps he is not for us).

Pranab Mukherjee fell from grace after the death of Mrs Gandhi. According to some. Rajiv Gandhi wanted to replace his mother's loyalists with his own trusted men. Others, however, point out to an incident when Pranab reportedly showed interest in becoming the Prime Minister. Though much has been written about the

incident tew know what really happened. Pranab's supporters insist that the remarks made by the former Union finance minister were misreported to Rajiv Gandhi by his political rivals.

On December 31, 1984, when Rajiv Gandhi was sworn in as Prime Minister, Pranab knew his downfall had begun. Instead of Pranab, Rajiv's name as the leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party was proposed by G.K. Moopanar and

The second state of the se

shirl sak what is the particular for Judgmic ont's personnessie. Itsuic is a debate whether one should concentrate only on one's constituency or work for the entire country. As the finance minister it was my job to run the economy of the country properly. That I had taked to do anything for the state was a companion is unched against me by the half. Frent beniefs. While I was the finance satisfater, more than I, 100 bank branches were rural banks in each district and these banks had 50 to 60 branches each. Think of the number of jobs that were created. The people who got employment in these banks were not from Mars or any other alien place, they were all from Bengal. But I didn't want to make any political mileage out of this. It was my job to create employment. I did my normal duty as a finance minister. Given a chance I will do it again.



seconded by V.P. Singh. Throughout the day he inxiously writed for a call from the I time. Minister, asking him, to join the Cabinet. But it never came. I ew among his old friends turned up at his Jantar Mantar residence that day to sympathise with him. Pranabon his part, wrote let ters to the new Prime Minister and the others in his Cabinet congratulating them. Four Congress leaders from West Bengal were inducted as ministers, Apit Panja Asoke Sen. Priva Ranjan Das Munshi and Chami. Khan Choudhury. But Pranab's name was not considered even once.

Nineteen eighty five was the most diffi cult time in Pranab's political career. The gap between him and the new leider of the party, Rajiv Gandhi continued to widen He had meanwhile left his ministerial bun galow on Jantar Mantar Road and moved to his own residence in Greater Kailash Part 2 Bombs were hurled at his house by some unidentified persons one evening There were strong rumours that Pianab would be arrested by the new govern ment. A section of the foreign media went to the extent of reporting that the former Union finance minister was being kept under house arrest. They were found to be baseless

In April 1985 he was made the West Bengal PCCI chief in place of Ananda Gop al Mukherjee This development obviously pleased him. According to many the Congress(I) performance in the state had been the best under his kadership. In the Cal cutta Municipal polls. Congress put up a strong fight and managed to get 69 seats against the Left Front's 71 in the Corpora tion But his detractors in the party were not pleased with his performance and they cried for Pranab's blood. He was asked to tender his resignation on the excuse that the party high command would then be able to force the Maharshtra PCCI chief Murh Deora to step down Pranab com plied, but Deora did not And it seemed no one was really interested in his resignation

Pranab realised that he was increasingly getting isolated from the core of the party leadership by the new set of associates of Raily Gandhi. He aligned with the other disgruntled members in the party under Kamlapati Impathi sleadership In March 1986 in an interview with a kading Fn glish weekly Pranab voiced his criticism on the manner in which the party was being run A month later Impathi de spatched his controversial letter to the AICC president highlighting the sense of alienation among senior members of the party. The letter though signed by In pathi, was reported to have been drafted by Pranab AP Sharma and other dis gruntled members of the Congress Though no action was taken against Iripathi the high command expelled Pranab

Mukherjee for six years for violating party discipline and engaging in anti-party activ-

Pranab was left with no alternative but to explore the possibility of forming a parallel organisation to get his views across to the masses. On January 5, 1987 he launched his new party, the Rashtriya Samajbadi Congress in Delhi. The previous afternoon he had made the announcement of his new organisation at a well-attended meeting at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Calcutta. A number of leaders came to congratulate him on his venture. Biju Patnaik told him in Bengali, "Pranab, ekbar dokan jakhan khulechho takhan jhamp bandho koro naa (Once you have decided to start your shop, please don't down the shutters)."

Pranab could not keep up his endeavour. The Rashtriya Samajbadi Congress candidates contested the West Bengal Assembly election in 1987, but were miserably defeated in all the constituencies. "It is then that I realised one cannot form an alternative to the Congress. I had tried, but the people rejected me outright. They wanted to see me in the Congress, not outside it," Pranab observes.

By the end of the year he started getting in touch with his friends in the Congress, asking them to request Rajiv Gandhi to take him back.

It was around this time that Santosh Mohan Dev, then Union minister of state for home, suggested Pranab's name to Rajiv Gandhi. Dev, who had been entrusted with the task of gearing up the party machinery for the Tripura Assembly election, argued that Pranab would be useful in campaigning for the Congress candidates since he enjoyed a large following among the Bengalis in the state. Dev's argument was accepted by the party president and Pranab, though not yet taken back in the Congress (I), was asked to campaign in January, 1988.

Dev's relations with Pranab date back to 1980, when the former was still in the Congress(S). Pranab was asked by Mrs Gandhi to look for a suitable candidate for the party to contest the Rajya Sabha elections from Assam. Pranab got in touch with Dev and persuaded him to stand as a Congress(I) nominee. Dev lost the election by a margin of one vote to the Independent candidate, Dinesh Goswami, but he managed to bring most of the MLAs to the Congress(I) fold. For his efforts he was rewarded by being given a ticket for the Lok Sabha election from the state.

The Tripura election was the beginning for Pranab's re-entry into the Congress(I). A few months after the election in Tripura which the Congress(I) won, Pranab disbanded his Rashtriya Samajbadi Congress.



Return of the prodigal

By this time a lot of changes had also taken place in the Congress(1). Rajiv Gandhi's new set of advisers, who had replaced the old guard in the party, had deserted him one by one. The Prime Minister was now looking for a new set of associates, people on whom he could depend. Pranab's return became an eventuality. The expulsion order was finally withdrawn in October 1988.

Things have definitely improved for Pranab Mukherjee in the last couple of years. His supporters claim that the former Union finance minister is now on the comeback trail. There is enough evidence to suppport this view. Pranab was the first one to be given a chamber in the newlybuilt, spacious, Jawahar Bhavan. Party sources also pointed out that Pranab was the only official whose remuneration and



benefits were not curtailed by the party high command in the wake of the Gulf crisis Each day he is being given more and more work hy the party. He has been made the chairman of the party's economic advisory cell. He accompanied Rany Gandhi when the Congress president went to meet the President to discuss the economic scenario in the country in the wake of the Gulf crisis. Pranab describes his relations with Rajiv as "good and cordial" and things have improved to a large extent between the two leaders

Pranab now looks after Zero Hour the publication being brought out by the party every Monday to highlight some of the burning issues for the intelligentia. He also played a key role in preparing the election manufesto of the party along with P V Nar-simha Rao and V.N.Gadgal Besides, he is be more useful to the party in Delhi during the forthcoming elections

But despite an apparent improvement in his position in the Congress Pranab is yet to get a formal position. He is not a mem ber of any of the important committees of the party, like the Congress Working Committee or the Congress (I) Parliamen tary Board His rehabilitation in the party has begun, but how far will he be able to reach? This is one question that is being asked by everyone in the party

On March 23, when the Congress Working Committee met to discuss the party's election strategy Pranab spent a few agonising hours before he was invited to the meeting as a special invitee. The incident clearly indicates his position in the party Whether he will be able to regain his lost position in the inner circle is a question which can be answered by only one man, namely Rajiv Gandhi



Ways with Words

Alliteration the rhetoric ing adjacented words with the same sound is a natural habit. Familiar phrases, 'good as gold highting fit 'fit as a fiddle proud as a peacock and so on, rely heavily on alliteration to be effective. This form of word play was an indispensible condition of Old and Middle English poetry, when rhyme was less common than it is today.

I here are some really fan tastic examples of excessive alliteration. Henry Harder composed a poem of 100 lines in Latin hexameters of cats each word beginning with Centified Canum Cun Catis Certamen Carmine Compositus Curiente Cala mo C Catuulli Caninu" In 1890's a serenade of 28 lines was published sung in M flat by Major Marmaduke Mutinhead to Mademoiselle Madeline Mendonza Marriot which contained only one word not beginning with m in the line "Meet me by the moonlight marry me"

Modern poets too use alliteration with great effect as in Coleridge's Ancient Mariner

The tail breeze blew the white foam flew

Ihe furrow tollowed free

Swinburne too was noto rious for the use of alliteration

() swallow sister, O fair swift swallow

He recognised his own failing which he parodied in a poem called 'Nephelendia which began

From the depth of the dreamy decline of the dawn through a notable numbus of nebulous moonshine Pallid and pink as the palm of the flag flower that flickers with fear of the flies as they float

It was alliteration that eventually gave rise to ton gue twisters. Shakespeare made fun of excessive alli



teration when he gave Quince these tongue twisting lines in "Midsummer Night's Dieam"

'Whereat, with blade, with bloody blameful blade,

He bravely broach's his boiling bloody breast '

This gave rise to the ton gue-twister proper a sent ence that is deliberately difficult to pronounce 'Peter Piper,' "She sells sea shells' 'Betty bought some bitter butter' still continue to be as popular as they were 50 years ago Some lesser known ones

"Your Bob owes our Bob a bob If your Bob doesn't give our Bob the bob your Bob owes our Bob, our Bob will give your Bob a bob in the eye"

Of all the felt I ever felt, I never felt a piece of felt which felt the same as that ielt felt, when I first felt the felt of that felt hat "

But the greatest alliterative achievement perhaps is the alphabetic poem

An Austrian awfully arrayed

Boldly by battery be sieged Belgrade,

Cossack commanders, cannonading come

Dealing destruction devastating doom

Lucky Seven

Cheryl Rutherford of Worcestershire (UK) was in seventh heaven, recountly.

On the fateful SEVENTH hely in the SEVENTH month of the year, she left her home (Number SEVEN, what chee?) at SEVEN am to im to the auraing home where the number SEVEN Appends and SEVEN ounces was born at SEVEN manufes that SEVEN in the evening. These were SEVEN people alternating on Charpi Rutherman, and the baby was the SEVENTH baby of the day.

The baby is named Stephanic, but everyone pulp her SEVENIE!

Eccentricity or Creativity

Recently the following people replied to an advertisement in a British daily to come forward confess and be counted

- A lady from Devon confessed that she maintains 7 (XX) gnomes and pixies in her back garden
- A man confessed that he drove backwards in his car all the way from his home in Sheffield to Huddersfield
- A man living in a posh apartment confessed to dressing up as a pink elephant

An ardent dog lover con

fessed to nominating his canine comrade to the post of a director in his company

What were these and hundreds of other people, coming forward and confessing to? They were admitting to a nut loose in their systems which resulted in such bizarre behaviour. The advertisement was inserted by a group of clinical psychologists in a British daily asking self confessed eccentrics to come forward and be counted.

Dr David Weeks and Katie Ward of Britain are happy to announce that eccentrics are not an endangered species in our brave new world of conformism and regimentation. Why happy, one may ask? Happy, because these psychologists believe eccentricity in a person is a result of (and results in) a very high degree of inventiveness and creativity

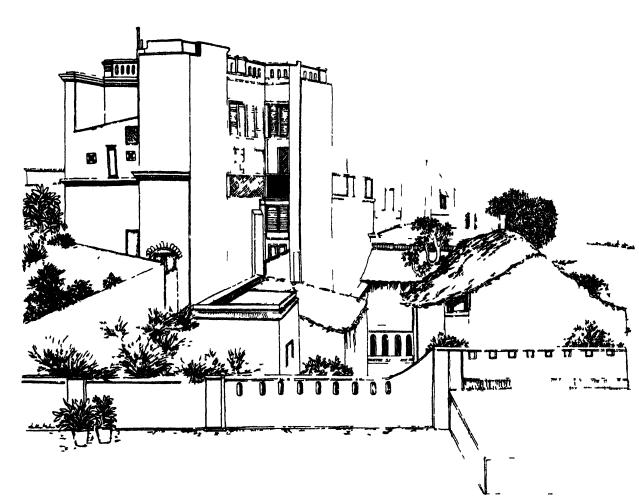
Dr Weeks clams that a number of people in Britain are eccentric, and therefore, innovative, and as a result Britain is responsible for at least 50 per cent of the new ideas adopted by manufacturers of consumer goods worldwide

Who is eccentric, we ask you the ladies who wear these contraptions as 'high fashion hats' or Milliner Philip Somerville who designs these and prices them at around Rs 8,600 a piece?

Shamlu Dude is and Nalini Sitishi



HEMENDRA KUMAR ROY (1888-1963)



Novelist, poet and renowned figure in children's
literature, eminent litterateur
Hemendra Kurnar Roy was
born at his ancestral home at
Pathurnaghat, Calcutta in 1888
He studied in a Calcutta school
for a few years but gave it up
to pur sue his artistic instincts
He joined the Calcutta Art
School but gave that up, too,
and took a job with the Military
Accounts department where
his father, Radhikanath Roy,
was also serving

At the insistence of the then editor of the Bengali journal, Jamuna, Roy took to writing and soon became a regular contributor to the journal. He thoroughly read the works of

Shakespeare Milton, Keats and Shelley, which helped hun a great deal in his literary pur suit Around this time two of his short stories, Pashar and Sindur Chupri were translated in German Soon he became a regular for Byoli, Prabashi and Bharati Among his early works were novels like Kal Baisakhi, Jalei Alpana and Bone Jal

Roy was a prolific writer and, with constant encourage ment from publishers, wrote one book after another in the form of fictions, plays, essays and stories for children. He made a significant contribution in the field of children's literature. Of his 200 publications

100 arc for children and one of these arc still among the best of their kind in modern Bengali literature. His detective novels, Javanta. Manik, and adventure tales like Bimal, Kumar and Sunder Babu are widely read by young and old alike.

A great lover of theatre, Roy had close acquaintances with Dain Babu, Amrital, Aparesh Chandra and Sisir K mar Bhaduri. In Bhaduri s play 5ita, Roy composed the songs and conducted the dance numbers as well. He died at 4.30 pm on Thursday, April 18, 1963, at his north Cak uttaresidence (sketched above) at 230/1 Upper Chitpore Road.

RIES March 21---April 20 More responsibilities, greater acclaim, tight

schedule and a good portion of love and laughter are in store for you this week. Romance will be exciting, pulsating and absorbing. Finances will be available in plenty, so feel free to pass a buck or two here and there. You will be as healthy as the proverbial horse. Travel will prove beneficial. The home and family will be tension-free. Changes on the home front require a special effort, but will have to be made.

AURUS

April 21---May 20 Travel, pligrimage, publicity, sales, rising expenses, collaborations and secret ties are the week's highlights. In finance, transactions, negotiations, bargaining and reaching out to people are well signified. You may be slightly below the weather, but it will soon

DARS OVER.

EMINI

May 21-June 20 The week's main trends are loans, funds, good company, plenty of. love and laughter and exceptionally good luck. Transactions, promotions and new deals are the significant features of the financial sector. Health poses no major problem. Communicate effectively if you are unable to travel. Expect visitors to drop in.

will be happy and rewarding. **ANCER**

Changes in the home and family

June 21-July 20 Partnerships, travel, more work and added responsibilities keep you busy, so gear up and keep your options fully open. The financial side shows an all round expansion. The mid-week is best for romance. Travel will lead to excellent changes in your career. You health poses slight worries brought about by overwork. The domestic front, too, will keep you busy.

July 21---August 21 Promotion, pelf, trips, ties, new ventures, sales and publicity gimmicks comprise the week. Romance is certainly your birthright and you shall have it. Important deals, negotiations and business partnerships will come through. There is not much to worry re-garding your health. Travel will prove beneficial and your work

















will be done. A sea-change in the home and family is foreseen.

IRGO

August 22-Sept 22 Funds, investments, children, hobbies and

entertainment keep you busy and happy. But accidents are the fly in the cintment. Romance will be enough to keep you healthy and happy. New financial ventures will be available. Minor health allments or chronic problems may worry you.

IBRA

Sept 23-Oct 22 Home, family, re-

novation, decoration, parents and in-laws step into your life. New connections, partnerships and trips are the other outstanding features. In ro-mance, passion and ardour are fated. Finance includes loans, funds, buying, selling, commission and agency. Get your travel-kit ready and by the weekend you will move. A slight danger of accidents and delays unless you are careful.



CORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 22 Health and com-

munication are the two significant areas this week. Romance will be available in short bursts. In finance, expect happy and rewarding developments. A medical checkup would be a good idea as regards your health. Do not undertake a journey unless for some important work. Buying, selling and beautifying are the highlights of the domestic sector.

> **AGITTARIUS** Nov 23-Dec 20 Money is on its way,

kids and lovers give satisfaction, and hobbies and entertainment promise happy outlets for you. Expect financial gains and recognition. Nothing much to worry about your health, so go ahead with work and leisure. Expect visitors, foreigners and friends to drop in.

APRICORN

Dec 21-Jan 19 The accent this week

is on the personal aspect of your life and that means relationships at all levels. Money and honey will be yours. Your financial graph shows an upward trend; loans and funds will be available. Except for occasional nervous tension and stomach ache all should be well with your health. Home conditions could lead to a journey.

QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Expenses eat into your income. Trave and new links are possible. You reputation reaches a new high

Love will be a way of life. Assign ments, promotion, contracts and deals constitute the financia sector. As regards your health you will be robust and laugh al the way to the end of the world A touch of class and elegance will be added to the home and family. You receive accolades for that.

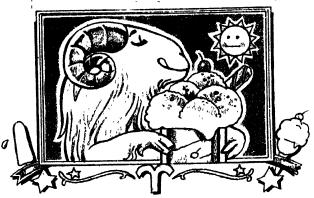
ISCES

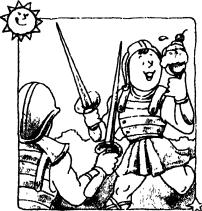
Feb 19-March 20 Buying, selling, in vesting and a hectk social whirigig are the week's highlights. The financial side is favourably signified, so take a wee chance. Romance will be enough to keep you smiling Your health remains in perfec shape. Travel is likely and it will prove beneficial, so be on the move. Exciting events, functions and dinners comprise the affair of the home and family.



ALL W. P. ALLEY

Kwality OF ARIES





He's rool in the



She's equally at home with sturps and bytes



. He fills your day with delicions surprises



. She believes miracles happen Sundae after Sundae



He'll take the cup every time



We've all the Kwality of a real Aries

LIMELIGHT

way through a Dunhill. Clear-lensed spectacles perched halfway on the nose. You expect him to give you a shimmering wink with both eyes and the famous roping-in gesture with his arms, and sing a song. But no, he's come a long way. The Dunhill may be half, the specs may be halfway on, but Rajesh Khanna's not doing things halfway any longer and claims he hasn't been doing them ever.

Twenty-five years of arc lights and greasepaint have had their impact. He's much more clear about what he says. Metaphors are galore and the setting's his office. Mercifully there's no one to yell out, "Lights!" "Camera!", "Action!" and "Cut".

On the desk, there's a book with the title, Tough Times Never Last, Tough People Do. You slide the book gently towards Khanna and quiz him about it. His answer, "You are looking at him, right across the table. Yes, I am a tough nut to crack"

From those dizzying days of soaring popularity which began with Aradhana in the late Sixties, wherever you saw, you could see only one name on the marquee, Rajesh Khanna, and a fan following of millions from nine to 90, to the shattering flops in a row that he gave, turning his famous prefix of Superstar and Phenomenon to Ex-. Khanna's seen it all.

His reaction to massive success and gut-wrenching failure is simple. "I am a seasoned warrior. It's like getting on a horse, riding it, falling off, getting hurt, getting bruised, battered and then climbing back into the saddle, that's what life is all about, and as in cricket, I say I have played my first innings and am about to embark on the second."

How does he look at his 25 years in cinema? "I have seen many seasons and many changes taking place in the world of films. When I came on, I did so with romance, love. Then, there was blood-shed and where there's bloodshed, there's hurry, and when there's hurry, there's no time for songs, love, romance."

However, Kharma isn't dejected by the gobbledygook that the media splashes about him every now and then, and writes him off Says he "Romance is back and



Campaigning in Bhatpara, W.B.

so is good mainstream cinema. Trends are changing, and in the last one and a half years, there has been a definite shift to better, middle-of-the-road cinema. People have stopped tolerating nonsense, they don't take any hanky-panky any more. Even the uneducated masses have a psyche of their own and won't tolerate bullcrap. You just can't take today's guy on the street for a walk and expect him to come along silently."

Citing the whole change in the atmosphere Khanna elaborates, "Look at the voter. They decided they didn't want the Congress, they threw out the party, they got someone else. Again, he couldn't prove anything expect that he was Mr Clean, and did nothing for the nation, so they changed that too. Much in the same way, the cinema audiences are getting wiser and unless you give them good cinema, which they like to see, they don't appreciate it. Even the two most powerful. nations on this earth, the USSR and the US, have become friends, and so you can say that in the end, love has triumphed. See the Gulf War, there was bloodshed, but ultimately peace prevailed. So it's coming full circle now.'

Rajesh adds, "Everything is now in favour of love, whether it's between a man and a woman, or between cities, or between nations, or between two generations, the spirit of camaraderie, feelings, amity, and romance are back."

Doesn't he wish he was young again and could do the same kind of roles that got him the tag of a romantic? "Oh, no!" says he with a smile, "A prince can never be a prince again, so let's say that the prince of romance is going to be the king of

With ex; wife Dimple in Jai Shiv Shankar



emotions and feelings and sentiments."

Is this an indication that we are going to see a lot of grey slapped on his pate, and him playing a dad in the flicks now? "Not necessarily, I can do good, solid, mature romantic roles, because romance isn't limited to age. Old wine





Pop a question to him about his recent

statement about his quitting films for the world of politics, and Khanna retorts,

"That was a misunderstanding, I was being felicitated by the Press Club in De-

ing in active politics, and I said that one cannot ride two boats at one time. So they asked me if I hadn't learnt from the mistakes of Mr Bachchan, and I replied that I didn't learn from the mistakes of others but my own and I said very clearly that for me, active politics comes when one quits films, and by getting completely involved in it. That statement was taken out of context and it was flashed all around that I was quitting films which is not true at all."

Then how does he intend being in films and politics, too? "Well, I'd like to do whatever little I can, by being in films, but when I feel that I really want to be actively involved, I'll say goodbye to films and concentrate wholly on politics, which means my office can make films, and do what they like, but I won't be in them."

Why didn't he contest the last Lok Sabha elections? "Well, my high command had asked me to, but I told them that I had just signed about 12 films and all of them were in various stages of production. If I had to spend about 200 days in Parliament, subject to my winning—which I was confident, I would—then I would, minusing 47 odd Sundays, have only about 70 or 80 days to complete those films I had on hand. Which would mean about five years

It's been a glorious 25
years for Rajesh Khanna,
the actor who first
popularised the concept of
"Superstar' and "The
Phenomenon'. SANJAY
SAYANI talks to the man
who is well past his
stormy screen days, and
is now dressing up for the
political party





VOICE-OVERS

Yash Chopra, producer-director:

I have worked with Rajesh in several films and we have had a beautiful relationship In fact, we had our own distribution concern and even when we parted ways, it was very amicably I also cast him after that in my own production

I feel he is a sensitive actor who needs a special kind of handling and a special role to bring out the best in

Shakti Samanta, producer director:

Rajesh and I have had a very long relationship I can say that unlike what the media makes him out to be, he is a very kind and gentle person and a very capable actor I have had great pleasure associating with him in several films, and together I think we made a very fine team

Gulsan Rai, distributorproducer:

Of course, unlike in the past, his name may not be as hot selling, but nevertheless, I think he is a very fine actor and a thorough gentleman, he has got it in him Today, his old hit films make good money for distributors on re-release

Hema Malini, actress

I have enjoyed working with Mr Khanna and we made a good pair I have always been aloof, and so has he our relationship was very professional, but never cold He was a very kind man and very considerate too.

Dimple Kapadia, ex-wife and actress:

Rajesh is a very complex man. At times very simple, at times very difficult Today, even though we have separated, we meet often, go out together, take the kids out as well and share a beautiful relationship. We are more like close friends, who understand and respect each other There are no more hassles now Rest, I wouldn't like to go into

and my producers would curse me for stabbing them in the back which was something I couldn't do because whatever I am, I owe to the film industry

"Moreover," Khanna adds, 'I would be doing injustice to my constituents be cause they would expect the most out of the man whom they have voted for, so it would have been halfway, both ways, and nothing halfway ever works out

Coming back to films, we ask Khanna how he would do those mature roles he plans to, and would it jell with his persona? Look, you can't expect me to play Aradhana today "Why not? "Because the age is not there I always look into the mirror and know what's what, and one has to change with time

Khanna is of the opinion that if you don't change, or move with the times, people are bound to reject you Does this mean. that he won't be able to get the gals swooning over him, as in the past? "Says who?" asks Khanna with a wicked grin "If I am able to touch a chord somewhere, I'll get them swooning "

The shummer of his eyes, the roping in action of his arms and the ierk of his head were mannerisms that got the turnstiles turning does he intend to hang on to them? "Not at all, I intend to drop those crutches completely, they looked nice at that point of time, no more I will now seek to charm my audiences with my per formances, give them romance in a different format

sked to comment on the second com-Aing of Amitabh Bachchan, Khanna av ers, 'I never thought he had gone away ' But then, Bachchan had five flops in a row, tıll Aaj Ka Arjun came along 'Look,' says Khanna, "five flops in a row doesn't mean that an actor is gone or comes back. The films could have been bad I don't say Aaj Ka Arjun was a super film or anything, but if the people liked it, it must be good, and what I have always believed in is, if a film is liked by people it's a good film, dammit We make films for the audience, not for ourselves Like when I received the special Filmfare Award for my contribution of 25 years to cinema I said "I owe it to Mr G P Sippy who introduced me, and the rest to my audiences "

Khanna has his own version of the fu ture of superstardom in the film industry and very definitely says, "Mr Bachchan is the last of the superstars, the era of superstars is finished, and it will end with Mr Bachchan

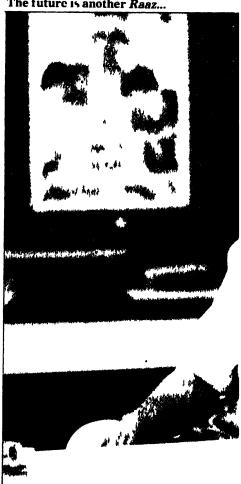
How does he arrive at this sweeping conclusion? 'You see when you have peo ple larger than life, like Mr Bachchan or Sridevi, in your bedrooms, on the small screen, with the remote control in your hands, where you can fast-forward them, rewind them, watch them while munching bhajiyas, drinking tea, and having kids yelling all over the place, how are you going to look upon them?

One really becomes a superstar, when the viewers stand in the queue for hours, get tickets, take the family out, and then watch the stars unfold their magic on the big screen in darkened movie halls not in their own bedrooms. The age and era of superstars is finished Now on, you'll have good actors, bad actors, small actors and big actors, like in Hollywood, but no superstars "

With his wide range of experience, his fair share of controversies, his ups and downs, his highs and lows, wouldn't he like to put pen to paper and write an auto biography? 'Oh, that I have been told by many wise people, but I have always declined

Why? "Because, despite all our claims to modernity, we are very emotional people, very sentimental, and if I were to write, I would end up hurting the senti ments of so many people I don't want to do that nor do I want to be dishonest, so why write at all?"

The future is another Raaz...



Isn't acting also a dishonest profession? "Not at all (slightly angry)! I think it's a very honourable profession, how can you say it's dishonest?" Because you're conning people all the time? 'Not at all, pray, tell me, in this country, is there any other entertainment other than watching films and producing children? In fact, we are doing humanity a service by entertaining them, showing them the world, taking them to Kashmir, Ooty, New York, London, Paris, Switzerland, taking them to a

make-believe world, providing an escape valve for them, enthralling them, exciting them, educating them, making them laugh, cry, and feel nice for three hours, just for 10 bucks!"

How does he look back on the title of Superstar? "Well, as I have always said, I was an actor, am an actor and will be an actor. Somewhere along the line. I became a superstar; how, I don't know.

Does he miss the romantic notes in his fan mail now? "How do you know that the girl who was 16 then, and is 38 or 40 now, doesn't have the same urge for romance now? Take me, for instance, I maybe 40-

plus, but I still feel I am 16 or 17, age doesn't count, there's still a lot of romance left in me, life inside me hasn't gone for a walk, my dear!"

Why the lure of politics, and why Congress(I)? "Well, you see, I was asked by the party president to join the party immediately after my work as a press liaison officer during the film industry strike was noticed and I joined the party. Moreover, the lure of politics for

me is simple. I want to be able to play as § good an innings there as I have played in § films, and even if I am able to solve one of the myriad problems facing the nation, I would feel happy that I have done my bit for the nation. Otherwise there is no lure for me. God has been kind enough to bestow on me money, fame, cars, bungalows, comforts, the power, the success of a kind that no one in the world of films has been able to achieve in this country. So what can politics give me?"

There are three kinds of politicians: the good, the bad and the great; what slot does Khanna envisage for himself? "I would like to be a great politician. I don't believe in doing things in a mediocre manner.

When his films started flopping, did Khanna ever take to blaming the audience? "Never, because somewhere along the line I must have disappointed them, they took it to an extent, and then drew the line and decided not to forgive me. So I don't blame them, I blame the films and my performance. This is a rare country. If you give them a little bit of good stuff, they clap a thousand times, the applause for a little pleasure is a thousand-fold, and when you don't give them even a minimum guarantee of entertainment, what do you expect? So how can you blame them?

Rumour had it that Khannna hit the bottle in a big way when his films bombed at the box-office. "No. in fact, that's a phantom created by a section of the media. The reverse is true. I drank much more when I was a superstar, and cut down on my drinks as the slide began and my films began to flop, because that's the time when one has to hold oneself. I am a very strong man, very rich inside, that book which you were talking about, Tough Times Never Last, Tough People Do, a writer friend of mine, Shabd Kumar, gave it me, and inside it, he inscribed, 'You will'. That's me, a very tough man.

How different was Rajesh Khanna 15 years ago? "Oh, I like the guy much better now, he has seen life, he is more mature now, more down to earth, and is now projecting his own image. In the early days, it was the media that had given him that image, the media together with his colleagues, his directors, his producers. One fine day, I got up and asked myself, hey, who is this Rajesh Khanna that they have created? So now I am picking up the pieces of the real me and assimilating them into a composite whole. The new Khanna that you'll shortly see will be the true naked image, very honest, straightforward and magnanimous."

What's Rajesh really like? "He has his lovely little wicked wicked ways, he is not Jesus Christ or Mahatma Gandhi, he is a human being, with all the faults, the good, the bad, the wicked combined.



The 'Superstar' mannerisms

Finally, Rajesh Khanna's name has been linked with three famous industry women, Anju Mahendru, Dimple Kapadia and Tina Munim. How does Khanna look at them today, in his own perspective, vis-a-vis a man-woman relationship?

"Well, first, I am proud of them. Anju is now working in this very office, heading my TV, video and advertising departments, and we are the best of friends. What better answer could there be?

What about Dimple? "Well, she is my heroine in my own home production, Jai Shiv Shankar. In fact, I had already signed another heroine, when our children suggested that it being a home production, mummy should contribute, and Dimple had the same feeling. When we discussed it, I got the message that she was serious and didn't think it was going to be just another film. Today we don't live under the same roof, but share a very meaningful relationship. We contribute to each other, we communicate with each other, we go out with the kids, dine together.

And Tina? "Well. I wish her all the best. because when you love someone very honestly, one has to have the feeling that wherever she is, she should be happy, and I wish her all the best. In fact, on the day she married, I invited a few couples I knew, and we opened a bottle of cham-

pagne!

With that statement, Khanna says, "Cut, please, I think I have spoken enough, I'm tired." The famous smile is flashing bright. The eyes are twinkling merrily. Yet, somewhere, deep down that smooth, highly polished exterior, is the true weather-beaten face of Rajesh Khanna. Maybe the failures haven't taken their toll, and are unlikely to, but somewhere a very deep emotional chord of sadness has been stretched, and the notes aren't too happy.

hat messages does a coin carry? The economic aspect is quite obvious. Being a medium of exchange with a weight standard and a definite metallic content, its role in transactional activities has become an inseparable part of our existence. But the coin carnes other messages too, perhaps less perceptible, but just as important. You may think that the two sides of a com are more or less the same, but actually the obverse and reverse of a coin have different characters and purposes. Legends, devices and designs on the two sides may give you vital clues to political and social situations, religious beliefs and iconographic developments, and artistic traits and idioms of the past. In short, a coin is a cultural indicator, like a modern postage stamp. Naturally, connoisseurs have an almost irresistible attraction to coins. The more ancient a coin, the greater its importance—not merely from an antiquarian point of view, but also for its rehability as evidence for an age with madequate written materials Of coms of various metals, those made of gold are doubtless the most valuable, attractive and sought after because of their preciousness, variety and

beauty. This brings us to a discussion on a recent publication on Indian gold coins by Prof. B.N Mukherjee of Calcutta University, a leading historian and numismatist of international standing. The Indian Gold (Rs 200) is a catalogue of gold coins in the cabinets of the Indian Museum. Calcutta, the oldest of its kind in India The book is divided into three major parts; • A general historical sketch of Indian gold counage- from the Kushana period to 1948—all within a brief space of 35 pages, A catalogue of 250 gold coms (selected out of a total of 3500 gold coms in the Indian Museum), containing their exact measurements, metallic purity and denominations.

 Colour plates where each catalogued com is photographed and magnified in original gold colour. The erudition, masterly treatment and complete command of the author over his subject and evidence will doubtless receive the reader's serious attention and admiration.

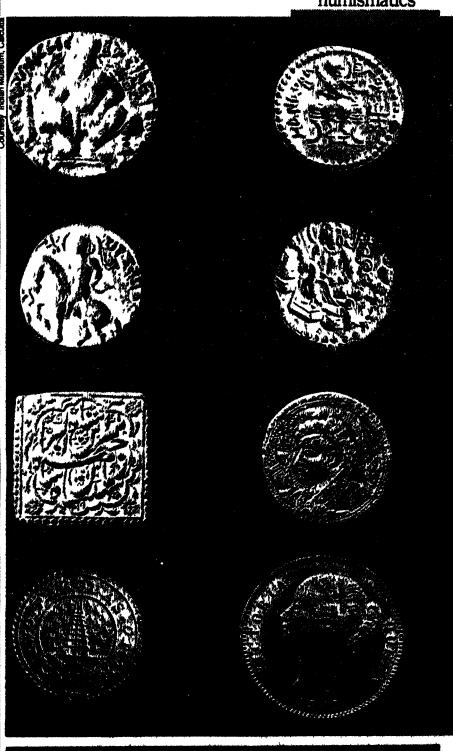
It is difficult to specify the exact beginning of gold coinage in India Though the Vedic period did not have any definite coinage, later Vedic texts (c. 800 BC) were aware of a weight of 'hundred standard' (satamana) The standard could have been the weight of a Krishnala of 1.8 troy grains (1.8×100=180 grains). This standard made a lasting impact on later Indian gold coinage, as we shall see subsequently.

The credit for issuing the earliest gold coms in India goes to the Kushanas. The Kushana gold com generally weighing 121 or 123 1 grains appears to have been based on the aurei standard (122.9 grains) of Rome with which the Kushanas maintained regular trade contacts. The Kushanas used gold coms as a powerful medium of propaganda of the right and might of the

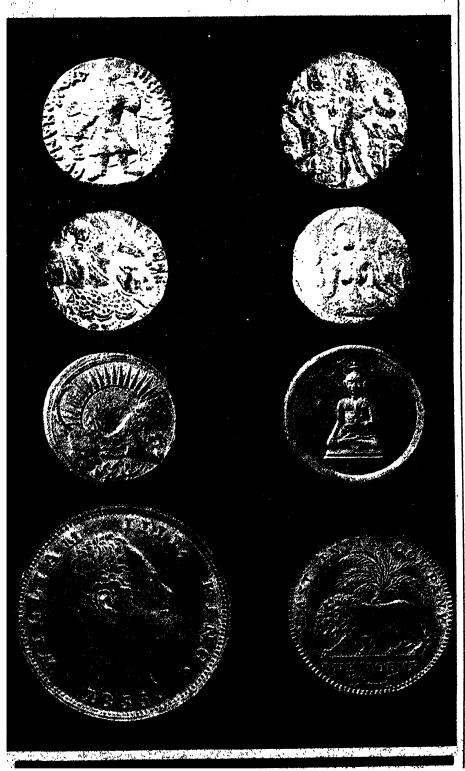
REVIEW

COINING AN AGE

Ranabir
Chakravarti
on the golden
history of Indian
numismatics



(a) Seated figure of Vima Kadphises; (b) Seated figure of the male delty Manachago; (c) Chandragupta II on horseback; (d) An image of Karttikeya on a peacock; (a) One side of a coin of Jahangir; (f) Bust of Jahangir; (g) A temple structure and stars; (h) Head of Victoria; (i) Standing figure of Kanishka I; (j) Standing figures of Chandragupta I and Kumaradevi; (k) One side of a coin of Kumaragupta I; (l) Seated goddess on a coin of Gangeyadeva; (m) One side of a coin of Jahangir; (n) A seated deity or saint; (o) Head of William IV; (p) Lion on a coin of



ruler and also for patronning diverse rule gious groupe in their yast comp

The impact of Kushana gold coi unmistakable on the coinage of the Guptas (320-550 AD) who issued one of the most brilliant series of Indian gold coins. Apart from their importance in economic life, the Gupta come are famous for the excellence of numismatic art. And if you take into account the gradual debasement of the gold coins in the later phase of the empire. you can imagine the problems that plagued the Guptas, politically and economically.

Rarity of gold coins marks the subse-quent period (600-1200 AD) when debasement of gold and poor execution marred the quality of coinage. As their production was no longer considered an expression of royal prerogative, irregularities in weight standard and metallic purity became rampant under private minting agen-

Order was restored to this near chaotic numismatic state of affairs with the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate which regarded. minting of gold coins (tanka, derived from tank=seal) as an expression of the sovereign authority of the Sultan. Now the gold coin was struck on the 180 grain standard, i.e. the ancient satamana standard. Though there was no Islamic sanction for this, the Sultanate followed 180 grains standard, because that was the least corrupted of existing weight standards.

Now to the gorgeous gold pieces (muhrs) from Mughal mints. Weighing around 170 grains a muhr tends to be set on, once again, the 180 grain standard. Like the Kushanas, the Mughals used the royal potrait to project the ruler as superhuman. When Nurjahan's name began to appear on gold coins during the last phase of Jahangir, that is a srue indication of the growing political clout of the Queen. As the Mughals allowed free coinage of all metals (including gold) against the payment of minting fee and seignorage, this paved the way for the system of farming out of mints. This had disastrous consequences on the administrative and financial strength of the empire.

European companies in India including the English East India Company continued the tradition of striking gold coins. The English issued their first gold coin from Madraspatnam (1643). Mints at Bombay (1671), Calcutta (1757) and Murshidabad (1777-78) followed next. When the British empire reformed the muhr, the standard was set, significantly enough, on 180 grains-an Indian weight standard of great antiquity. The other curious point is that from April, 1927 onwards, no gold coin bearing the name of a British monarch was considered a legal tender in British India (by Act IV of 1927). The last gold coin struck in India was issued by Mir Usman Ali Khan of Hyderabad in 1948.

Gold as a medium of exchange is no longer in use in India, but gold coins remain-to quote Prof. Mukherjee-"objects of delight". Their captivating beauty radiates an enticing charm."

7 DAYS



Victor Baner jee and Aparna Sen in Mahaprithibi

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

RI GUI AR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Ghar Parivaar Piridise (Bentinck Street 85442) Mitri (Bidh in Siram 551133) Kiliki (Sidinanda Road, 478141)

Directed by Mohani Prisad and with music by Kalyanji Anandii the film stars Rajesh Khanna Moushumi Chatterice Kishi Kapoor Meenakshi Seshadii Raji Kirin Shema Anand Shafi Inamdur and Asrani

• Gunehgar Kaun Operi (Lenin Sirini 281819) 1 Show

An action drama stairing Mohan Khan Sankeeta Palani Sujata Mehta and Raj Babba. The film is directed by Ashok Gaikwad and the music is by R D. Burman

• Majboor Ladki (A) New Cinema (Lenin Sirini / 014) 4 Shows

Pinkaj Dheej Sti Prada Kinica Alil Nath and Jaced Khin coriprise the mane ist of this film directed by Rim Paljawi i the musica by Kishore Singli Patthar Ke Phool Metr

• Patthar Ke Phool Metr (Chewringhee Road 280141) 4 shows

A love stry starring Salman Khan and Raveena Landon. The film is directed by Anant Balani and the music is by Kaamlaxman. • Saaya Jyoti (Lenin Sarani 241132) Gem (AJC Bose Road 249828) Priya (Rashbchari Avenue 464440) Purnasrec (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033) Madhuban (Regent Paik)

Directed by Keshu Ramsay and with music by Bappi Lahiri the film stars Shatrughan Sinha Poonam and Danny

• Sanam Bewafa Lotu (5 N Banerice Road 242664) 1 shows

Net another love story starring Salman Khan and debut inte Chandra The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Makesh Kishor

• Yodha Roxy (Chowringhee Place _84138) 4 shows

Directed by Rihul Riwill and with music by Bappi I ahari the chief attractions of this film are Sunny Decl. Surjay Dutt Singecta Bijlan and Danny.

Bengali Films

• Beder Meye Josna Rupban (Bidhan Saram 553413) Aruma (Mahatma Gandhi Kord 3 9561 Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road 474686) 1 4 7

One of the recent big hits the film stars. Chir inject, and Anju Ghosh. Others in the cast are safuddin. Dildar. Note than Abbots. Some Anomak a Subhendu. Anomath and Bulbul The film is directed by Matiyur Relman Panu and the music is by Abu Laher.

• Bidhir Bidhan Dirpini (Bidhin Sirim 58080) Purni (S.P. Mukherec Road 474567 2-30 8-15 Prachi (AJC Book Road 271282) 25 7-745

Road 271282) 7 7 45
Arun Govil Satabdi Rov Ranjit
Mullick Sumitra Mukherjee Papia
Adhikari Bejoy Mohanty Mohan
Choti Sangeeta Das and Lapas
Paul comprise the main east. The
film as directed by Mohammed
Mohant and the music is by Akshay
Mohanty

• Mahapi ithibi Minar (Bidhan Sarani 152753) Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road 4/3462) Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740) 3 shows

A Mrinal Sen film starring Victor Banerjee Soumitra Chatterjee Geeta Sen Anjan Dutt Anusua Majumdar and Aparna Sen

• Prashna? Sice (Bidhan Sarani 551515) Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350680) Ujjala (Russa Road 478666)—3 shows

Directed by Sharan Dey and with music by Panchanan Chatterjee the cast includes Prasenjit Deepankar De Subhendu Chatterjee Sanghamitra Banerjee Rabi Ghose Gita Dey Ratna Ghosal and Indrain Dutta



NEW RELEASES

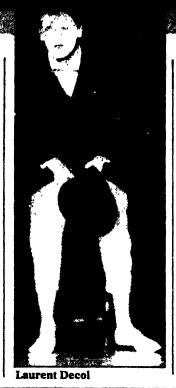
Hindi Films

• Paap Ki Aandhi: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757).

Directed by Mehul Kumar, the film stars Dharmendra, Aditya Pancholi, Farha, Amrita Singh, Kiran Kumar and Shaktı Kapoor. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarel-

Sholay: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Bina (Bidhan Sarani, 311522), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417).

A re-release of this Ramesh Sippy hit, starring Dharmendra, Amitabh Bachchan, Hema Malini, Sanjeev Kumar, Jaya Bhaduri and Amjad Khan. The music is by R.D. Burman.



Special Events

31 March: 6.30 pm

Alliance Francaise and ICCR present the well-known French mime artiste. Laurent Decol, disciple of Marcel Marceau, in The Sad Story of Tunoleon Manges.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road; 289978).

1 April onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Biraj Paul in the West Gal-

• Bidhan Deb will hold his weeklong exhibition of paintings in the New South Gallery.

2 April onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm Mandira Batabyal and others will hold a week-long exhibition of paintings in the North Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302).

2 April: 7 pm

Theatron will stage Tagore's play, *Bisarjan*.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road: 284302).

3 & 4 April: 6.30 pm

Anamika Kala Sangani presents a festival of two Hindi plays, Court Martial (written by Swadesh Deepak) and Auntivon Ka Tehkhana (based on Joseph Kesserling's Arsenic and Old Lace), directed by Ranist Kappoor.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani; 449086).

4 April onwards: 12 noon - 8

An exhibition of Satish Gupta's recent works, entitled The Silent Flute.

At Chitrakoot Art Gallery (55 Gariahat Road; 755314).

4 & 5 April: 7 pm

A Concert for Dihp-a charity rock music concert in memory of musician Dilip Balakrishnan. Dilip's own compositions will be played by the Calcutta band, High, and his friends Nondon Bagchi, Lew Hilt, Amyt Dutta, Kochoo Dutta, Jeff Menezes, Paul D'Gama and others.

At Vidya Mandir (Moira Street: 446420).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230, Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915;

Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): Ai-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2025.

London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7): Al-132/1328 at 1230.

* Moscow-Sherjah-Calcutta: Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1525. Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow:

Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1725. Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanoi: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0640; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0750.

 Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1615; Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1815.

Amman-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184 at 0645. Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-185 at 0530.

+ Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (1): RO-063 at 1115, Arr. (6): RO-063 at 1045; Dep. (1): RO-063 at 1230, Dep. (6): RO-063 at 1290. +Bangkok-Calcutta-Buchareet: Arr. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2015; Dep. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2130.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-

420 at 1310. Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at

Calcutte-Banckok: Dep. (2, 4, 7):

IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7). IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1530.

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): RA-213 at 1430.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (3, 6): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (daily). BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935.

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr. (3, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (daily): BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5): BG-698 at 1950.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 1910.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (2): KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Ale-India

at 1230.

Calcutta-Bornbay: Dep. (2): Ai-101 at 0230. Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): Al-1328

Hen Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700;

Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235. Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 9850; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0750 and IC- Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact 262548, 262685, 266860, 262417, 560433, 560841/2/2/4/5 and 560633.

274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-765 at 1700; Arr. (daily): IC-766 at 2210.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily). IC-771 at 0610; Arr. (daily): IC-772 at 1200

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1545.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily): iC-410 at 0615.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340; Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0800; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at 1100.

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-743 at 1330, Dep. (3, 5, 6, 7) IC-241 at 0700, Dep. (1, 2, 4): IC-241 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-744 at 1600, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1350, Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 0900. Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6):

IC-286 at 1000. Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 1400; Arr. (daily): IC-202

Calcutta-Bagdogra; Dep. (daily):

IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1320.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily): IC-255 at 1050; Arr. (daily): IC-256 at 1530.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650: Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-N Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 6): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-270 at

Calcutta-Guwaheti-Dimapur: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-219 at 0840; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-220 at 1320. Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 7): IC-277 at 1745; Arr. (1, 2, 7): IC-278 at 2215.

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam Madres: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 0700; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at 0915.

Calcutta-imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-259 at 1330; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-260 at 1610.

Vayudoot

Calcutta-Agartala-Kallasahar: Dep (2, 4): PF-729 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4): PF-730 at 1330.

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutte-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta. + No traffic rights on Calcutta-Bangkok-Calcutta

Calcutta-Agartala-Sìlchar Dep (7) PF /29A at 0/10 Arr (7) PF

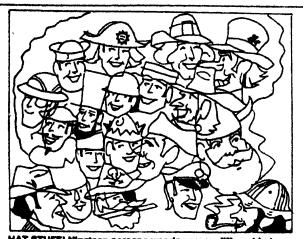
PF 708 at 1150 (7) PF /29A at 0/10 Arr (7) PF /30A at 1140 Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (1 3 5) PF 707 at 0855 Arr (1 3 5) PF 707 at 0855 Arr (1 3 5) PF 706 at 1250 Arr (1 3 5)

5) PF 706A at 1615 Calcutta-Jamehedpur Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) PF-717 at 0600 Arr (1 2 3 4 5 6) PF 718 at 0745
Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong Dep

(1 3 5 6) PF 701 at 0930 Arr (1 3 5 6) PF 702 at 1400 Calcutta-Agartaia-Shillong-Calcutta Dep (7) PF-701 at 1210 Arr (7) PF-702 at 1615

Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival		Departure		SOUTH-EASTERN	Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn			RAILWAY		
2311	19-00	Deihi-Kalka Mail	8 30	2312	Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
3005	19-20	Amriteer Meli	8-05	3006	6003	20-40	Madres Mail	7-00	6004
3003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	8002	19-20	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8-00	8001
2381	9-15	Air-Cond (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	2860	12-35	Gitaniali (Bombay) Express	15-05	2859
		press via Gava-Varanasi	10-00	LOUL	8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	8033
		Dep-Tues Thurs & Sat			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
		Arr- Wed Fri & Sun			2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex-	11-50	2842
2303	9-15	Air-Cond (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304			press		
2000	9-10	press via Patna	10-00	2004	2611	22-35	Bangalore Express	13-45	2612
		Dep-Mon Wed Fri & Sun			1		Dep - Tues		
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2301	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	8013	17 30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	8014
		week			8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	8012
		Dep-Mon Tues Thurs Fri &			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	8006
		Sun			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	8016
		Arr-Tues Wed Thurs Sat &			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8008
		Sun			8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via	7-45	8410
2373	23 00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	2374		.5 00	Nara		
		press Tri-Wkly			2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	2822
		Dep-Tues Fri & Sat					press		
		Arr-Tues Wed & Sat			8045	11 10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex-	14-55	804€
2547	13 15	Purbanchai (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	1		press		
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0007	3 43	press via Main Line		-	1 —	14 10	- Guwahati Express	10 40	
		prose via main zine			í		Saturday only		
3011	20 45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	_	14 10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13 45	2649
3019	16 00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	_	14 10	Guwahati Weekiy Express	10 40	2010
3021	22 00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	I		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
		•			i				
5659	17 35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660	2650	22 35	Thursday only Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	
3317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2000	22 35		22-13	
3029	17 15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030	i		Terminus Weekly Express		
3035	18 20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036	1		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032	0000	00.05	Saturday only	10 45	2651
				0070	2652	22 35	Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	200
30/1	22-05	Jamelpur Tri-wkly Express	6-00	3072	1		Superfact Express (via		
		Dep-Tues_Thurs & Sat			1		Visakhapatnam & Madras)		
		Arr-Mon Thurs & Sat			}		Dep-Fri & Sun		
3015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016			Arr-Tues & Fri	00 15	
		Ohlens (Indons) Process	7 00	4470	2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22 15	
1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express	7-30	1172	l		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
		Dep-Tues & Wed			l .		& Cuttack)		
		Arr-Sat & Sun		0000	1		Wednesday only	40.45	
3327	15 25	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Ex-	7-30	3328	-	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
		press					Weekly Express (via Howrah		
		Dep & Arr-Mon & Fri	40	***	1		& Cuttack)		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express	10 40	5050			Monday only		
		Dep & Arr-Sunday			2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	
					l		minus Weekly Express (via		
					l		Howrah)		
							Thursday only	44 44	
					i –	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2609
					1		Patna Weekly Express (via		
					1		Howrah)		
					l		Wednesday only		
		Sealdah							
3143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45				r round the clock information of		
3153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154			lal 203545-54 for in-coming train		
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152			nation For information about		
3103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104	Easter	n and So	uth Eastern Railways trains, die	203500	from t
5185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186			weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm		

JUNIOR WHIRL O Hel Kaufman



ersons wearing many different hats are shown in this drawing. How many of them can you find?

• PARTY LINES! If the answer is Santa 8-1000, what is the question? How many cookies did Santa eat? What can be put on a one-dollar bill to make it equal a ten? Nine ones will do it



TEAM PLAYER?—LET'S SEE

To solve this poser, rearrange let ters in each grouping below to form the name of a member of Santa's reindeer team, plus that of a

- famous "extra"
 - 6. RED NOD-7. DIP CU....
- HER SAD-3. ME COT.... 4. PECAN RR... 9 LORD HUP-5 LENT BIZ-

See if you can name all nine in less than two minutes. Then let someone else try

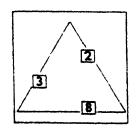
1 Dancer 2 Dasher 3 Comel 4 Printer 5 Bilthen 6 Donder 7 Cupid 8 Viven 9 Pudolph

• SIDE SHOW! Challenge: See how quickly you can arrange digits 1-9 around this triangle, below, in such a way that the sum of the numbers on each side is 20.

Each digit is to appear just once. Three digits—2, 3 and 8-are in place.

There are to be four digits on each side, one of them at each point.

Cluckwise from top 9 2 4 5 8 6 1 3 7





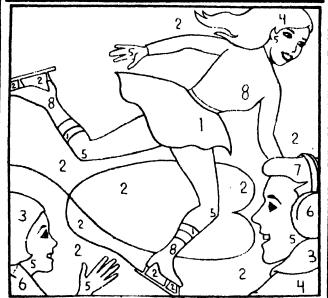




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How awing details between top and bottom panels. How you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences: 1. Doors are missing. S. Elbow is conceased. S. Lamp is missing. 4. Evers is shorter. S. Light finture is different. S. Hear is conceased.

FUNSPOT



ICE 'N EASY! What's the hardest part about learning to skate? The ice, of course. Code: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt brown. 5—Fisch tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Lt. purple.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

MAGNETIC

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points. Possible Indecine: Mint, dage.

wo quiz reports from Orissa. The first from N.K. Roy, Deogarh:

The silver jubilee of the Raja Vasudev Quiz Contest which is the oldest surviving quiz competition in the state ended at Deogarh (Orissa) with a narrow win for the Leopards over Cheetahs. Masterminded by quizmaster Bimalendu Pradhan, the minus marking quiz contest was a unique competition in all respects.

'While asking the questions, the 'dance style' of the quizmaster was entertainment for the large crowd of 2.000. From next year onwards the prize money will be doubled. Plans are afoot for an all-India veterans quiz contest to be held here.

A report on Questival-91 from Anustup Navak, Bhubaneswar:

"Saturday atternoon came alive with quiz fever in Bhubaneswar. A group of four young enthusiasts; Ravi Kamath, Girija, Kaushik and Supratim, calling themselves the Qwizards with the help of sponsors HMT Watches, organised one of the largest quizzing events in Bhubaneswar. A record 96 teams battled it out for the 12 berths in the semi-finals. There were quite a few upsets when many top teams failed to make it and after barely qualifying, Satyabrata Rath and Chickoo Chawda from Cuttack became champions in a hard-fought final. The quiz also saw QM Srimant Mohanty again at his best. The large audience in a hilarious mood were treated to a bonanza of prizes and

A "Who am !?" from Vikas Singh, Rourkela:

the winners took home a

HMT quartz each.

I was born of theatrical parents at Eastlane, Walworth, London on April 16, 1889. During my childhood, I and my elder half-brother used to go every day to a church on Waterloo Road for free soup which was often all that we had to eat. When my father died, and my mother was



11th Question: How does legend account for the robin's red breast? (Sheikh Abdur Rab, S/o Late Sheikh Khoda Newaj, Rasulpur B.M. High School, P.O. Rasulpur, Burdwan 713151)

Ans: It tried to help the crucified Christ by pulling a thorn from his crown of thorns and was pricked. The blood spilled on his breast making it red.

taken to a mental hospital after some time, I was sent to an orphanage. I emerged from the orphanage in March 1896 to become a waif of the London slums, I played Billy. the office boy, in Sherlock

Holmes and acted as one of the elves in the first production of Peter Pan.

In one of my early films in London, Lady Astor, G.B. Shaw, Somerset Maugham and Winston Churchill all

turned up. While in London, I used to like going into pubs pretending that I was a foreigner who didn't understand British money. Chou-en-Lai was one of my fane and once he arranged for a private viewing of some of my films. On another occasion he gifted me 41 lbs of special blends of China tea.

When I was in Fred Karno's company, a gypsy had predicted that I would be married unhappily three times before I would find the right wife who would bring me real happiness and that remarkable prophecy came true. After World War II, I lived in the millionaire's paradise of Bel Air, Hollywood, where I gained a reputation as one of the most unpopular men in the US. Columnist W.R. Wilkerson wrote about me: "He will talk himself into trouble and bring annoyance to the very people who are lifting him to the skies with their praise and sympathy.

American Defense Secretary Charles Wilson once branded me as just one of those kennel dogs that howls for peace. My last film, in which I made only a token appearance, was a total disaster at the box office. In 1975, I had knighthood bestowed on me. I died on Christmas Day, 1977. Perhaps the finest tribute to me then was paid by a writer who echoing the shock of my passing to a world made sadder by it, said: "He achieved greater widespread fame in his own lifetime than perhaps anyone else in the history of mankind. For a slum-born who once laid down his head on a bare mattress on an attic floor with only a bowl of soup to keep him alive, it had certainly been an amazing lifetime of 88 years. Who am !?

Ans: Charles Spencer Chaplin.

Postscript: Watch out for details of the Sportsworld Round Table 38 Quiz for the Duniop Spectrawide Trophy on April 18, 19 and 20 at the Dathousie institute.

QUESTIONS

Kathakali dancing, hakespeare's plays and manase No plays all had mathing in common in



tie eld days. What was it? Ayen Bhattacharys. ndernagbre 38) 2) What is the Malling Mer ton 1067 (Acupratan Alek,

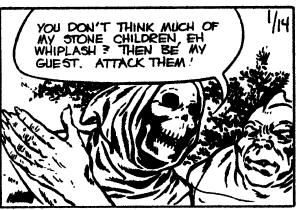
(onneger 35) I) Who is a pantophisis Riskesh Verma, Belgris

Chinese, "The Cotacitat River" The Hebreve, "The River of Light"; and the ancient Indians, not to be outdone called it The Calcettal Ganges? (Bibhalf Renjan Prachen, Rudpimerener 12), It tilks was Relition & Co. air Saire. Annu Alba

ANSWERS

















ARCHIE









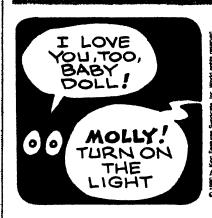












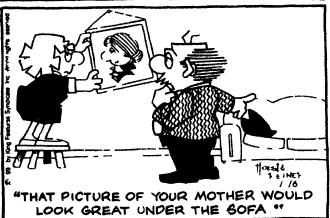


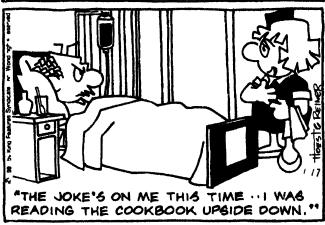


THE LOCK HORAS







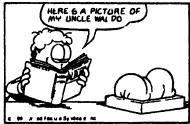


GARFIELD By Jim Davis

















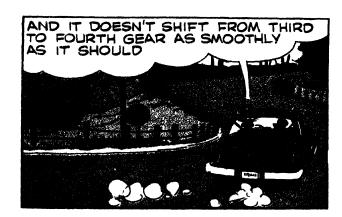


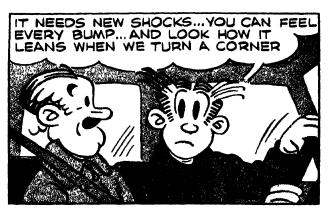


















CURRY CURRY CURRY - Ranjit Rai

Kidney Tomato Curry

Kidneys need very careful preparation or else they tend to become dry This dish can be made with any kidney -of calf, veal, lamb, goat or pork Serves 4-6

Preparation Time 25-30 minutes Cooking Time 45 minutes

Method

First prepare the kidneys for cooking Wash and blot with kitchen paper. Take a sharp knife and cut off the outer thin membrane. Then slice the kidneys horizontally

in half. You will notice streaks of fat—trim them away keeping the kidneys flat on a cutting board and score the surface, both lengthwise and breadthwise. Keep the squares long or small according to the size of the kidney For lamb kidney a small plus (+) score is enough. Never cut too deep or else they will split open during cooking.

Toss the kidney in the soda-bicarb and let them sit for 15-20 minutes. (In the meantime prepare the tomato curry sauce as in the recipe that follows) After the kidneys are soaked wash them well in cold running water. Now toss the kidneys in salt and vinegar in a bowl for 10 minutes.

To prepare tomato curry sauce, heat oil to near smoking and add the singe-fry masala. Cook for about 2 minutes till brown Add the follow-up masala 1, first brown the onions and follow immediately with the rest. Stir fry for about 3 minutes, then add the follow-up masala 2 and cook on moderate heat for 15-20 minutes till oil is released. Now add the follow-up masala 3. By now the consistency will be like thick tomato soup. Transfer to a large baking dish and keep aside.

Take a large saucepan, filled with water and bring to boil After blotting the kidneys

Orin Sinha	F.	

dry with a kitchen towel, put them in the boiling water Turn off the heat and blanch for 3-4 minutes Put them back in the colander and let them dry out.

When drained put the kidneys in the tomato curry sauce in the baking dish and spoon the sauce over the kidneys. Bake in an oven on moderate heat for 10 minutes. Sprinkle the garnish masala and serve.

This curry goes well with rice or with normal white bread. It may also be eaten by itself

NOTE This tomato curry sauce is very versatile and it can be used for practically eggs or any meat.

Finely chopped spring onions about 2 tbsp (15 g) may also be included in the garnishing of this curry

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India

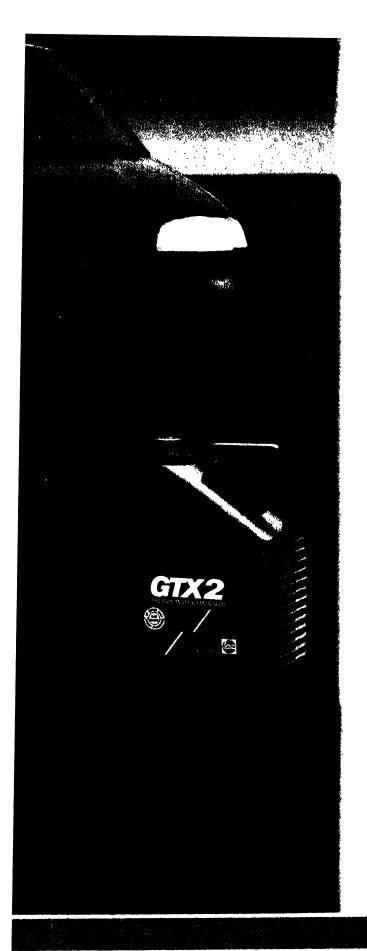
British	Metric	Ingredients	Americar
1 lb 6 oz	600 g	kidneys, about 10 of lamb, 5 of calf or veal & 6 of pig	1 lb 6 oz
9 fl oz (1 ² / ₃ cups)	250 mi	cooking oil, preferably peanut	1½ cups
1 tbsp	14 g	soda-bicarb	1 tbsp
1 tbsp	15 ml	vinegar	1 tbsp
1 tbsp	75g	salt (I), to taste	½ tbsp
	for	tomato curry sauce	
		singe-fry masala	
1 tsp	3 g	cumin seed, whole	1 tsp
¹ oz (½ cup)	10 g	curry leaves, green	½ cup
	1	follow-up masala 1	-
2	2	onions, large, finely sliced	2
1 tsp	5 g	ginger paste	1 tsp
1 tbsp	15 g	garlic paste	1 tbsp
1 tsp	2 g	chilli powder	1 tsp
2 tsps	55g	cumin powder	2 tsp:
1 tsp	5 g	salt (II), to taste	1 tsp
	1	lollow-up masala 2	
3 lb 6 oz	1 ½ kg	tomatoes, large, red skinned & strained	3 lb 6 oz
	1	follow-up masala 3	
1 oz (½ cup)	10 g	green coriander, leaves only	1 cup
2	2	green chillies, sliced	7
		garnish masala	
1 OZ	10 g	green coriander, scissor-cut, leaves only	½ cup

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POST MORTEM

Elegance and Talent

Your tribute to Nutan (March 3) was appealing. But at the same time why did you not publish a single line or photograph of Greta Garbo who died last year?

Garbo was the greatest beauty that Hollywood ever produced. Those who have not seen her films will never know the magic of her presence on the perfection in histrionics was her characteristic.

Manohar Mandal, Nabadwip (W.B.)

■ You paid a tribute to Nutan in an excellent manner. The picture, though black and white, was striking and showed her face at its emotive best. The caption, O jaanewale, ho sake to laut ke aana, caught the mood of the picture and moment perfectly.

Partho Pratim Poddar, Cooch Behar



Nutan: A Bandini no more...

screen. **Debashis Sen,**Calcutta

■ Nutan's death has left a vacuum in the world of Hindi cinema. The elegant actress leaves behind many a milestone in the field of acting. She will always be remembered as an actress who brought to the screen an aristocratic, distinguished presence and a skilful, intelligent interpretation of characters.

Javed Nishat, Calcutta

■ The untimely death of Nutan has caused an irreparable loss to the Indian film industry. She had such a lovely personality and

Preserving On: Heritage

We were very pleased to note through your article, 'Echoes from the Past' (February 17), that IN-TACH has taken the responsibility of restoring Bhuli Bhatiyari Ka Mahal in Delhi. It is certainly a brave move in a positive direction.

We never miss any opportunity to flaunt our heritage, but at the same time we show no respect for the thousands of monuments, large and small, spread all over the country, which still stand as mute testimony to the creative

genius of our forefathers

The Archaeological Survey of India, which was set up by Lord Curzon in 1919, looks after ancient monuments, but it is also necessary that voluntary bodies of non-governmental organisations and education-sists come forward in shouldering this responsibility. It is essential that the common man is also made aware of our price-less heritage.

The government is not solely responsible for this monumental disgrace. All Indians are collectively responsible as trustees of our national heritage. One wonders how many of us are aware of the Article enshrined in the Indian Constitution which says that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to value amd preserve our composite culture.

Wasif Mirza,

President, Oudh Royal Family Association, Calcutta

Rishore Songs

I am a fan of Kishore Kumar. I have noticed that in your recent issues you have carried some translations of the songs of Mohd. Rafi, Hemant Kumar, Sahir Ludhianvi and so on accompanied by beautiful sketches.

Why haven't you taken up the songs of Kishore Kumar? I am sure there are many others like me who are waiting eagerly for that.

Ajitesh De Sarkar, Howrah

Superb Collection

I don't understand why you do not publish Candid Camera regularly. You have given us a superb collection so far. A recent one of Khushwant Singh gave us a rare glimpse into his personality.

Md. Nazmul Hoda, Calcutta

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

7 APRIL 1991



The BJP has forced Ayodhya back to centrestage on the eve of elections. A look at the myth, the history and the politics of Ramjanmabhumi.

Om Puri, who plays the pivotal role in Roland Joffe's film, City of Joy, is arguably the finest actor in the history of Indian cinema. An interview with the man who plays Hasari Pal, a rickshaw puller, in the Joffe film.

SECTIONS

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Inner Eye

Curry Curry Curry

Panorama

7 Days

23 Junior Whirl

24 Quiz

Comics

ြံပါ Candid Camera

Cover Rajib Basu

COVER STORY



rucial to the controversy over Ramjanmabhumi are differing notions of myth and history and their relation to social practices. Historians have shown that the claim of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) are based on questionable historical evidence. The historicity of presentday Ayodhya is debatable, no historical record notes the exact spot of Rama's birth, nor is there any evidence that the

Babri Masjid was built on the ruins of a Rama temple.

Yet this critique of the VHP claims may not convince many. And the sceptics are not all Hindu zealots, ardent supporters of the VHP. Popular conceptions of the past are often informed and structured by myths. In these conceptions, myths are true histories; desacralised, demythicised histories based on historical records are false

We cannot dismiss such myths. We can not counterpoise history to myth as truth to falsehood. These are different modes of knowledge, varying ways of understanding the world, ordering one's life and defining one's actions. If myths convince people, we must understand why they do so. If fabulous stories circulate and light up the popular imagination, we cannot merely de



monstrate the fabulous character of such stories; we must know why they circulate, why they play on the popular imagination.

The facts, the events, and the social actors referred to in myths often have no 'real' historical evidence. Yet myths do refer to reality. They talk about the world symbolically, metaphorically. The effort to read traditional myths to discover the historicity of events may not be too meaningful. But they reveal a lot about the mind of those who produced those myths, the values of the society which believed in the myths. Since myths are constituted and reconstituted within society through social processes, different versions of the same myth exist. The meaning of each version is different: the symbolic representations of good and evil differ, the same characters embody different qualities. By comparing the different versions, by analysing the alterations and reinterpretations within them, we can understand the societies which sustained those versions, and the function that a myth played in a particular

Reinterpretations are often contesta-tions. Within a traditional society, which is ordered through myths, social reordering occurs through a questioning of the dominant myths. Existing myths are not always dismissed—their internal structure is changed. The different layers of meaning n each myth allow a range of possible appropriations. Old myths are sedimented with new meanings, counter-myths are produced, and the heirarchy of values relected in the myths are altered. All this occurs within the structure of mythic discourse, not outside it. Reinterpretations. are not always recognised as such. Myths and counter-myths can reach out only when they share with the audience a repertoire of what is familiar. Structured within the archetypal mythical narratives and hidden behind familiar stories and haracters, innovations have a surreptiious existence. Through this familiarisa-ion the mythical narrative wins the confilence of the audience and weaves in new stories into the text. Once the audience dentifies with some of the stories, they ire persuaded by the narrative; all the itories appear plausible, believable. A night is thus transformed through the inroduction of new ideas, new values, new stories; it no longer expresses and reconirms the values of the people, it modifies

The process of mythification has to be inderstood. We need to study the relation setween the production of the modern seltical myths and the social and political mactices within which this takes place which in turn the myths seek to sanction. by demonstrating the constituted characer of myths we can operation the effort to recent them as 'eternal' and unchanging . and we can contest the sanction which I politics seeks from them.

The VHP claims about the Ramianmasthan, however, are not sustained by reference to myths and beliefs alone. Integral to their whole argument is the rhetoric of history. Myths and stories about the Janmasthan are persistently presented as history whose facts could be established through historical records and evidence.

In the debate over the issue, conviction in history and the sanctity of historical evidence has been repeatedly emphasised by the BJP and the VHP:

The facts of history appear fiction only to a person suffering from Historologia and not to a balanced mind who is not afraid of

On the eve of elections, the BJP is once again trying to whip up communal passions over the Ayodhya issue. Neeladri Bhattacharya takes a close look at the myth, history and politics of Ramianmabhumi

any unpalatable fact whether it is for or against.
Facts of history cannot be wished away; they must be realised and imbibed, instead of closing eyes to them.

The popular accounts about the Janmasthan, which would appear incredible to most historians, claim to be 'true histories'. "In this book historical facts have been presented exactly as they were' says the preface to a booklet which recounts an imaginary story of Ayodhya through the voice of river Saryu. Other accounts like Sri Ramjanmabhumi ka Raktaranjit Itihas by Ramgopal Pandey and Ayodhya ka Prachin Itihas by Acharya Gudunji Sharma may violate all canons of the historian's craft, but are stated to be authoritative history'. Sri Ramajanmabhumi Mukti Yagya

Samiti has collated its own version of historical and archaeological evidence, and Justice Deoki Nandan has produced an influential historical pamphlet for this Samiti. The Organiser, which has been relentlessly campaigning for the construc-tion of a Rama temple in Ayodhya, has published, on several occasions, what it claims to be 'authentic' historical facts about the Ramjanmabhumi and the Babri

Masjid.

Thus in both the propaganda pamphlets

The state of the s

and popular 'histories', there is a recurrent reference to 'true history' and 'authentic account'. History is called upon as a witness to the events recounted. "Itihas sakshi hai", is a phrase often used. "History speaks", we are told, in support of the account produced by the VHP; as if we need to listen to this voice of history to brow the tenth know the truth.

These accounts seemingly conform to the practice of historians; they quote historical records. Here the procedure of citation is considered more important than the nature of records cited; when necessary records are imagined into existence, they are concocted. It is easy to demonstrate that many of the records referred to do not exist. Yet the fact that citations are seen as essential to justify claims to truth

is significant. These narratives appeal to two distinct audiences. On the one hand they appeal to those who will be persuaded by the validity of mythical truth and will allow myths and beliefs to be the basis of action; on the other they appeal to those who would doubt the basis of myths, seek a different form of historical knowledge and argue for a different order of democratic practice. So these narratives seek the senction of myths and beliefs on the one hand and 'history' on the other. It is a strategy necessary in the modern age when all types of minds have to be united.

What characterises this mode of argument, therefore, is an ambivalent and sceptical attitude towards myths, beliefs and history. The persistent reference to true' history shows a lack of conviction in the power of myths and beliefs in legitimating action, and in their claims to truth. But when the authenticity of historical facts cited in these texts are criticised, then legitimacy for action is sought in myths and beliefs. When there was a proposal to set up a historians' committee to investigate the history of Babri Masjid to help the Court in its decision, the Organis-er reacted typically, "With the Hindus it is a matter of faith that Bhagwan Rama was born where the Babri Mosque is. No government or court can sit on judgment over it." When the historians of the Jawaharlal Nehru University produced a critique of the VHP claims, K.R. Malkani, a VHP historian, again fell back on the same argument. If indeed 'history' and myth were no different, then why does the VHP use the language of the historian's discourse?

If reference to historical documents are so important in the campaign for the Ram-janmabhum, then a debate over the au-thenticity of the records and the evidence contained within them is essential. This has been attempted elsewhere. But we also need to go beyond this debate over historical evidence to understasnd the meaning and structure of the myths and stories which circulate at a popular level, as well as the political context within which they are structured.

The battle for the Ramjanmabhumi is part of a wider political struggle for a constitution of 'Hindu' consciousness and identity, for the construction of a unified Hindu tradition, and for the assertion of 'Hindu' power over all the other communities in India. The VHP activities acquire their meaning within this broader context.

One major objective of the VHP is to forge a national and international unity amongst all those it defines as Hindu. Hindus, they feel, have been fragmented and divided into groups and castes—in conflict with each other. This weakness has allowed foreigners to invade and rule over India, and the minority communities to become defiant. To reassert their power, the Hindus have to become conscious of their underlying common identity, rediscover and forge the unity which lies submerged. It is essential for all Hindus to realise that 'they respond to the same historical memories. Their hearts beat to the same spiritual tune. They are bound by the same ties of blood'.

This project of forming a Hindu Community, united at the national and international levels, marks a major effort at restructuring religious traditions within India. The diversity and differences within religious traditions, considered by religious reformers a sign of the strength and vitality of tradition, now acquires a new meaning: it becomes a sign of weakness of the community. To overcome the weakness the Hindus must unite, they must act together, they must speak with one voice.

But to what purpose?

All forms of unity are not the same. Their objectives may differ, the basis of which they are forged may vary. So it is important to understand the politics of uni-

fication.

Unification is essential, according to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the VHP. not merely to bring the Hindus together, but to arouse them-to awaken the Hindu spirit. The struggle for the Ramjanmabhumi has an important part to play in this process. "The present agitation to liberate the Sri Rama Janmabhumi," we are told, "is no less than a battle for national self assertion." It is, in fact, "nothing short of a phase of struggle for the liberation of the National Soul." Rajmata Scindia has repe-atedly defined the politics behind the struggle for the Ramjanmabhumi, "Ourtarget is jagriti, awakening and unity among Hindus. Hindus have to come out of their stupor, overcome their inertia, and regain their swabhiman (self-respect). They need to rise and act.

This is not a movement for an awakening of the 'old' Hindu spirit. It seeks to

redefine the spirit of Hinduism and the identity of a 'good' Hindu. Underlying the plea for self-assertion is a specific notion of self and an effort to develop an authoritarian Hindu personality.

The need for aggression is a theme which recurs insistently in the speeches and writings of the VHP and the BJP. It is powerfully expressed in a polemic against secularism which first appeared in the pages of the *Organiser* and was then reprinted in a pamphlet for popular circulation. The author, speaking through the voice of an 'Angry Hindu', attempts to explain the reasons and justifications for the Hindu anger:

Yes, certainly I am angry. And I have every reason to be angry. And it is also right for me to be so. Otherwise I would be

no man.

Yes for too long I have suffered affronts in silence. For ever so long I have been at the receiving end...My people have been kidnapped by the hostiles. My numbers have dwindled...my adored motherland

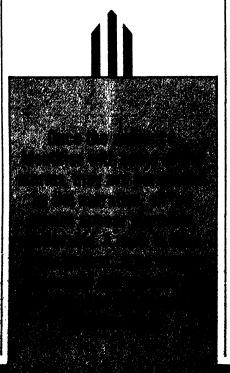
has been torn asunder...

And still you tell me I should not get angry? That I should not stand up and shout 'enough'? My temples have been desecrated, destroyed. Their sacred stones are being trampled under the aggressor's feet. My gods are crying. They are demanding...reinstatement in all their original glory. When I speak out my agony, you of the secular tribe condemn me as a threat to our 'secular peace'. You add insult to my injury. You rub salt into my wounded heart...

For you, our national life minus every bit of Hindu is secularism. In short, you want

me to cease to be myself.

Should I, tell me frankly, continue to sit silent in face of all such indignities and



exploitations? And do you dare to tell me that I have no right to be angry? Even a worm turns, they say. Do you think I am worse than a worm?

You have decried me as an 'Angry Hindu'. On the contrary, I take it as a compliment. For so long—for too long—I was lost in a deep coma. I saw nothing, I heard nothing, felt nothing—even when my motherland was cut off. But all such incessant blows have at last awakened me. Now I have begun to see, I have begun to hear, I have begun to understand, and I have begun to feel—what tragedies have overtaken me...Hereafter I will sleep no more. I will not remain dumb; I will begin to act, I will not run away from challenges; I will face them...

I now realise I had been too good for this world of 'hard reality'. I believed that others would respect my gods and temples as I respected other's...I believed generosity begets generosity...But alas, again and again I was deceived. I was betrayed, I was stabbed in the back...My goodness has been turned upon me. I know now a bit of the ways of the world. And I have decided to speak to others in

the language they understand...



And finally, I have come to know the value of my anger itself.

Patience, tolerance, generosity are first claimed as innate qualities of the Hindus-virtues which differentiate them from others. Then the same qualities are identified as signs of weakness, the basis of inertia, apathy and passivity, the cause of all their present problems. To face contemporary challenges, new values had to be developed. The value of aggression and anger had to be realised.

This framework of discourse idealises masculinity—a specific form of masculinity. Anger and aggression are identified as the qualities of manhood, tolerance and patience are feminine. Manliness symbolises strength and feminity is a sign of weakness. To overcome their weakness Hindus had to give up their feminity and assert their masculinity.

Beyond anger and aggression, is the politics of vengeance and retribution. Other communities, it is argued, have subjected the Hindus to innumerable indignities and oppressions in the past. The Hindus have foolishly and silently tolerated all

cartir (consecrated littles), water (Ganga-ial), first (Corchilghts), blood and ashes of the dead. These rituals of communal mobilisation are rituals of confrontation. Mobilisations are essentially against other communities. The crude demonstration of 'Hindu' power through the practice of these rituals is meant to intimidate others, and to defy and provoke them



Mixing myth with politics to whip up communal passions



this for too long. Now is the time to avenge past injustice: "For centuries the injustice to the Hindu community by Babur's hordes cannot be allowed to perpetuate."

The struggle for Ramjanmabhumi is fed by this ideology of retribution. The logic is simple: if Muslim rulers inflicted their tyranny on Hindus, all Muslims today have to bear the burden of this guilt. It is as if the guilt on an individual can be transferred to the entire community to which the individual belongs, and as if guilt is passed down the generations over centuries. If Hindu temples have been destroyed in the past, mosques will be destroyed today.

This is demand for a re-enactment of medieval politics. Since sacred and temporal authority was closely connected in the past, religious institutions were also symbols of political power. Conquerors often asserted their power by destroying sacred places. This medieval logic is at work behind the struggle for the Ramjanmabhumi. Mosques, like the Babri Masjid, are seen as symbols of Hindu subjection; and their destruction, a necessary part of the liberation movement of the Hindus.

Destruction is not always the inevitable logic of this politics. Institutions and buildings can be appropriated without being destroyed. The strategy here is to deny creativity to the Muslims. Muslims only pillage, not create, "Islam only destroyed. It never built anything on its own. It captured temples and palaces and advertised them as mosques and tombs." P.N. Oak has not tired of arguing that Fatehpur Sikri, Buland Darwaza, Taj Mahal were all built by Rajputs. The claim that the Babri Masjid is a Hindu temple is nothing unique.

The new Hindu spirit requires its own popular imagery and symbolic representation. Traditionally, Rama was represented as powerful but restrained; he is Maryada Purushottam (Supreme Man) but tenderhearted. The image of Rama is being transformed into that of an aggressive. masculine warrior God. Yet, in the present context, Rama cannot provide the symbol of desired aggressive values. Popular communal literature often represents Shiva as the personification of the new ideals. The imagery of death, destruction and fiery anger, and its association with Shankar and Chandi, is emphatically expressed in the followed passage from a poem which attempts to define the identity of a Hindu:

Hindu tan-man, hindu jeevan, rag-rag hindu mera parichay

Main shankar ka wah krodhanal, kar sakta jagti kshar-kshar

Main damru ki pralaydhwani hun jismain nachta bheeshan sanhar

Ranachandi ki atripta pyas, main durga ka unmatta has.

Main yam ki pralayankar pukar, jalte mar-

ghat ka dhuandhar

Phir antartam ki jwala se jagti me ag laga dun main,

Yadi dhadhak uthe jal-thal-ambar-jarchetan phir kaisa vismay?

Hindu tan-man Hindu jeevan, rag-rag Hindu mera parichay.

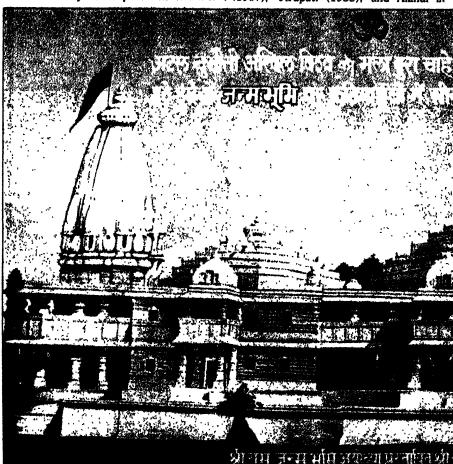
Here we have a specific interpretation of Shiva. Within Indian tradition Shiva has more than one image: According to one tradition, Shiva, like many other detites, embodies the tension between the opposing principles of chaos and order, of asat and sat, of violence and creation. The Shaivas in south India erased the violent and destructive side and presented god as nirmala—one without taint. Now there is an opposing effort: to idealise the violent and destructive principle. The attributes which are celebrated in the present political context are discovered in and sanctified through the divine figure of Shiva.

If Shive expresses the new militant, aggressive spirit of Hindutva, Rama is projected as the symbol of the Hindu unity. Here again the symbolism of Rama is being subjected to a new political interpretation. Traditionally, the Ramayana has been an open text which has been adapted to local contexts and read in different ways. In some versions, Rama is the personification of the ideal Kshatriya, the perfect man; in others he is also the embodiment of the evil—a man who treacherously kills Bali Raja in an unethical combat. In some veraions Ravana is a 10-headed monster: in others he is a learned sage, or a hero. Heterodoxical sects like Buddhism and

Jainism have their own versions of the Ramayana. The Dalits in south India venerate Bali Raja, and contest the representation of Rama as the virtuous king. The efforts by the BJP and the VHP to unify the Hindus around the image of Rama is an attempt to erase the diversity and conflict within a catholic Indian tradition, to repress contestatory voices which question dominant myths, and produce a homogeneous, universalist Hindu tradition conducive to communal politics.

The formation of a new identity and new collectivity also requires the invention

The early 1980s saw the beginnings of a new phase of intensive communal mobilisation. The first Hindu Samajotsav (Hindu Unity Conference) was held at Shimoga in Karnataka in January 1981. Since then the VHP has organised similar Hindu Samajotsavs all over the country. In October 1981 a Virat Hindu Sammelan was held in Delhi; in March 1983 a three-day Vishal Hindu Sammelan was organised in Jammu; in January 1982 there was a Hindu Jagriti Ekta Sammelan in Kanyakumari. Subsequent sammelans have been held in Ranchi (1987), Tirupati (1988), and Alandi in



In the name of Ram, a blueprint for confrontation

of new rituals and practices. In India. rituals and practices are usually specific to sects and castes. Their collective performance binds the members of a sect or a caste together, and separates different sects and castes from each other. To transcend these differences and build a larger 'Hindu' unity, the VHP and the BJP have invented new rituals. These are not traditional religious rituals. They are desacralised, in the sense that their objective is solely political. Through these rituals the VHP and the BJP seek to mobilise the people, instil and aggressive sense of Hindutva and generate a communal consciousness. 3×"..."

Manarashtra (1987). Processions and rath-yatras have been a regular part of the rituals of communal propaganda: Jana Jagarani Abhiyans, Vishal Hindi Aikya Yatras, Ekatmata Yatras, Rama Ratha Yatras. New bonds of unity are being cemented through earth (consecrated bricks), water (Ganga-jal), fire (torchlights), blood and ashes of the dead.

These rituals of communal mobilisation are rituals of confrontation. Mobilisations are essentially against other communities. The crude demonstration of 'Hindu' power through the practice of these rituals is meant to intimidate others, and to defy and provoke them. These yatras have been

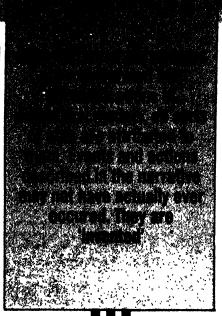
invariably accompanied by violent rioting, bloodshed and death. The experience and memories of such hostilities have deepened the divide between Hindus and Muslims and created in turn a further context for confrontations.

'Other' faiths do not provide the only targets of political aggression. The new face of Hindu communalism is characterised by its violent opposition to secularists—to all those who are opposed to the politics of religious intolerance. Such an opposition has always been a part of communal politics, but now it is one of its



defining features. The communal argument is simple: experiments in modernity have failed; rationalism and secularism have led to a civilisational crisis in India; assertive Hindutva alone can provide the possibility of the nation's survival. Secularism, we are told, 'is draining away the nation's "elan vital" of Hindu spirit'. Secularists are identified as 'Hindu baiters', traitors, Muslim communalists. They are 'trojan horses' who 'weaken Hindu strength from within'. These 'traitors' have to be attacked to defend the Hindu nation.

The politics of Ramjanmabhumi is thus part of a wider communal politics which



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seeks to forge a combative unity amongst Hindus. It seeks to reconstitute Hindi identity as an aggressive, masculine identity. It speaks the language of vengeance and retributive justice.

This effort at a redefinition of a Hindu identity leads to a series of conflicting arguments. The discourse of communalism criticises other religions for being monolithic, but aspires to build a monolithic unity. It glorifies diversity within Hinduism as a mark of its superiority over Semitic religions, but seeks to repress this diversity. It identifies aggressiveness as an evil intrinsic to other religions, but attempts to instil the same quality in all Hindus. It talks of patience and tolerance as innate virtues of Hindus, yet sees these traits as the basis of Hindu weakness. It condemns other religions for their politics of religious repression and temple destruction, but organises itself around the same politics.

Myth, history and the politics of Ramjanmabhumi inter-relate in complex ways. Specific appropriations of myths and history give meaning to present communal politics, govern the nature of social action; the specific form of politics in turn is articulated in myths and history, it defines the way myths and histories are constructed.

There are many versions of the history of Ramjanmabhumi which are being popularly circulated. Their details differ in important ways, but in broad outline they are similar. The story inevitably begins in the Treta Yuga when Rama was said to be born in Ayodhya. Here he spent his childhood and part of his life. After Rama

moved his capital to Saketa, Ayodhya went into decline. Despite the desolation of the city, Ramjanmabhumi survived. But it survived in anonymity: its location was lost. Vikramaditya miraculously rediscovered Ayodhya and built a temple at the Janmasthan. After Vikramaditya, Ayodhya again went into decline but the temple and the place at the Janmasthan survived. When Babur came to India he pillaged and plundered like all Muslims. He destroyed the temple at the Janmasthan and built a masjid. Subsequently Hindus made repeated efforts to recover control over the Janmasthan. But the Janmasthan could not be liberated even after British rule. In 1949 a Rama Murti was miraculously discovered in the masjid: Rama, it was said, had himself appeared to remind the Hindus of the sacred history of the place and their duty to liberate it.

The story thus revolves around several myths: the myth of ancient Ayodhya, the myths of its loss and rediscovery, the myth of the destruction of the temple and the construction of the mosque, the myth of the popular movement for the recovery of the Janmasthan, the myth of the miraculous appearance of Rama's idol. The politics of Ramjanmabhumi flows from this mythic history.

Mythic narratives provide the structure within which these popular histories are framed. Within myths personages appear as archetypes as villains or heroes. The struggle between heroes and villains represent the deeper conflict between the forces of truth and falsehood, justice and injustice, dharma and adharma, order and disorder. creativity and destructiveness, good and evil. The struggle between gods and demons, between devas and asuras, express the conflict between these opposing principles.

The popular communal histories are cast within this frame. But in the process the mythic structure is filled with a communal meaning. Muslim rulers are transformed into archetypal villains and Hindus who fought the Muslim rulers or suffered under their rule become the heroes. Muslim rulers are shown as representing the forces of evil: tyranny, injustice, oppression, destruction, repression, disorder. By opposing these forces, Hindus fought for the principle of order, justice, and dharma. The struggle around Ramjanmabhumi is depicted as a long struggle between these forces.

Once historical personages are transformed into personifications of archetypal models, all sorts of aets are attributed to them. Events and actions described in the narrative may not have ever actually occurred. They are 'invented' to build up the picture of the archetypal villain or hero. The popular communal histories of Ayodhya produce long lists of misdeeds of

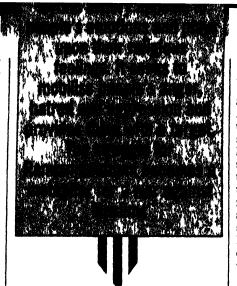
all Muslim rulers to demonstrate how cruel and oppressive they were Having painted this picture, readers are persuaded to believe that such rulers were capable of all hemous crimes, like the des truction of the Ramjanmabhumi temple by Babur and the subsequent ruthless repres sion of the Hindus who struggled to liber ate the Janmabhumi These stories have no support in any historical evidence. Yet they appear believable to those who are persuaded by the archetypes those who accept the representation of Muslims as

villains and Hindus as heroes

The demonology of Muslim rulers in the popular communal histories of Ramjanmabhumi goes along with a particular communal representation of the past. Consider the set of articles on temple destruction published in the Organiser Here the story of the destruction of the Ramianmabhumi temple dissolves into a more general narrative of temple destruction by Muslim rulers, and the mythic story of the decline of India from the age of civilisation to the age of barbarism Fach of these articles on different provinces of India is framed within a similar narrative structure. They all begin with the pre Muslim period. It was an age when India was studded with temples. It was a time of growth and develop ment a time of progress of high levels of cultural and intellectual achievements Then came the Muslim's Death destruction and decline followed. It was now a time of invasions cruelty, for abile conversions religious repression, cultural disin tegration and economic collapse. Des truction of temples epitomised this general phenomenon of decline Regeneration could only be through a return to the origins a recovery of the original glory. In a way the obsessive concern with the place of Raina's birth reveals this vision of a return to the Yuga of Rama from which India had apparently descended to bar

he popular communal histories of Ayodhya persistently play on the theme that Ayodhya and the Janmasthan are profoundly sacred to the Hindus and that their sanctity has been defiled by Muslims

One of these histories Avodhavan ka Prachin Itihas is presented as the Avodhya Guide It tells the reader about the sacred history as well as the sacred geography of the place Ayodhya, we are told existed before the profane world came into being To create the cosmos. Manu needed a place to work He brought Ayodhya from heaven and placed it on earth. After creat ing the world from his base in Ayodhya Manu gave Ayodhya away to Ikshvaku Ayodhya derives its sanctity from being present at the sacred time of creation, from being the centre from which the cos-



mos was created

To further emphasise its sacred charac ter, several other mythic marks of sacredness are attributed to Ayodhya Ayodhya we are informed, was more sacred than all the other sacred places in India. This is expressed by symbolically associating different sacred centres with different parts of the divine figure of Vishnu Ujjain was the feet of Vishnu Dwaraka was the navel, Haridwar was the heart Mathura was the neck Kashi was the nose Ayodhya was the head Ayodhya is the source of origin of all the worlds. Brahma lok Indialok Vishnulok Golok It was the original nature from which the human world was created. After enumerating these myths of Ayodhya's ancient origin the Ayodhya (ruide proceeds to substanti ate the myths through historical evidence

In a world that believes in myths the sanctity of a place is often attested by its association with the miraculous that which does not occurs within the sphere of profane experience. The sacred as it were, reveals itself through the extraordinary the mysterious the miraculous. This link with the miraculous is established in the myths of the loss and the rediscovery of Avodhva After the Ireta Yuga Avodhva was lost. Vikramaditya set out to rediscov er it. One day a tired Vikramaditya was sitting on the banks of a river. He saw a dark man taking a bath. When the man te emerged from the river he was no longer dark. Viki aniaditya asked the person who he was and how he was muaculously transformed. The man said that he was turtharaj Prayag When he could no longer bear the burden of other people's sins he came for a bath in the Saryu which flowed next to the sacred city of Ayodhya The myth again attempts to reaffirm the sancti ty of Ayodhya Saryu was purer than Prayag Prayag who had the power to cleanse the sin of humanity, came to purify himself in the water of Saryu And Saryu derived its purity from its association with Ayodhya

The miraculous reappears in the second myth about the discovery of Ayodhya Prayag tells Vikramaditya to allow a cow and a calf to roam. When the calf reached Ayodhya, milk would secrete from its udder Vikrainaditya follows Prayag's instructions and thus rediscovers the exact location of ancient Ayodhya Location of a sacred place, evocation of its sacred signs, through the help of an animal is common in the world of myths. The secretion of milk is a reference to unilateral creation, to androgynous birth again common in the sacred myths of India but not in everyday life. The above myth re emphasises the divine character of the place where the unilateral creation occurred

The miraculous surfaces yet again in other myths Sri Ramajanmabhunu ka Raktaranjit Itihas tells us that Babur confronted an extraordinary problem when he destroyed the Ramjanmabhumi temple and



The scene of crime, according to the F

proceeded to build the Babri Masjid. He found it impossible to contruct the Masjid The walls which were built in the day mevitably collapsed at night. Babur was told by Hindu mahatmas that Hanuman would never allow a masjid to be built in Ramianmabhumi unless the structure of the masjid was changed. Hindu features incorporated the place was called Sitapak, and Hindus were allowed to worship in it Babur had to listen to the advice of the mahatmas. The myth asserts the sanctity of the Hindu chim over Babri Masjid and the sacted power of the Rama temple. The divine could not be easily destroyed. It had the rower to resist human and natural forces of destruction Even earlier, we are told, the Ramjanmabhumi had miraculously survived amidst general desolation, first after the Treta Yuga and then after the age of Vikramaditya. The story of the miraculous appearance of the Rama idol within the Babri Masjid in 1949 sought to reconfirm both the sacredness of the place and the Hindu claims over it

The politics of Ramjanmabhumi derives its sanction from a mythic history of a long heroic struggle for the recovery of the Janmasthan "For centuries we have been fighting for Ramjanmabhumi It's not a new thing of today. Not thousands, but lakhs have perished for the sake of Ramjanmabhumi," says Rajmata Scindia. All the popular communal histories attempt to describe this long struggle that Hindus have waged over centuries. This unfinished struggle, they argue, has to be carried on

This is an effort to legitimise the pre-



VHP

sent action by tracing its ancient lineage, to deny the communal character of the present movement by the construction of a mythic sacred history. The recovery of Janmasthan was, in this logic, both a sacred duty and an inherited obligation of all Hindus. The blood the ancestors shed had sanctified their cause and imposed an obligation. Their blood has to be honoured, their goals have to be realised, their martyrdom has to be avenged. And for this the Hindus have to be ready to sacrifice their blood as well as their lives.

This myth of past struggles for the recovery of Janmasthan seeks to authorise the politics of Ramjanmabhumi in yet another way Therefore a mythological explanation of the present action is not seen as novel it is a repetition of what has gone on before. The nature of action is governed by archetypal models, and these models are provided by past heroes. The present generation of Hindus have not begun the struggle for Ramjanniahhumi, they need only carry on and complete a struggle begun in the past. The ancestors, through their sacrifices, their struggle against the evil injustice and oppression associated with Muslim rule, set the example which the descendants must follow.

The use of mythic forms and mythic themes makes these communal histories familiar to the audience. The myths appeal because they appear to be part of the known, accepted tradition. Yet the stories which are cast within the traditional mythic torms are invented. This invention often takes place in the course of struggles between communities, and it is the politics of these struggles that are expressed through the myths. The myths about the Janmasthan were invented cometime in the third quarter of the 19th century. In the mid 1850s a conflict occurred over the Hanumangarhi temple Reacting to the tolerant politics of the Nawab, a group of Sunni Muslims claimed that the Hanumangathi temple was built at a place where a mosque stood earlier. Dispute around the claim led to violent confrontations and bloody fights between the Surnis and the Bairagi sadhus Retaliating against the Sunni claim over Hanumangarhi, a section of Hindus produced a counter myth. They retained the structure of the argument put forward by the Sunnis but reversed the claim. They now asserted that the Babri Masjid was in fact, built after destroying a Hindu temple. This claim was raised not during the Hanumagarhi episode, but after it The focus of dispute thus shifted from Hanumangarhi to Babii Masjid Myths about the Babri Masjid which were now in vented in the course of the conflict became part of the local tradition and were reported in British official accounts written after this period

The mythic histories we have been dis cussing seek to authenticate themselves through a set of narrative strategies There is a process of concretisation A mass of concocted figures, dates, names are quoted to create an illusion of concreteness. We are told that there were 76 attempts to liberate the Janmasthan 20 during the reign of Akbar, and 36 at the time of Aurangzeb During the reign of Humayun the Hindus did not remain silent Three thousand women fought along with Jayrajkumarı and 24,000 soldiers were mobilised by Maheshwaranand There is actually no historical evidence for any of these struggles. But invented sources are continuously cited to establish the factual authenticity of the text

Concretisation goes along with a method of familiarisation. The mythic his tories recount some familiar details about the reigns of Humayun, Akbar and Aurangzeb, and cite a few well known sources. Once the reader is made to identify with such familiar facts, he is persuaded to believe in the authenticity of the narrative. I through this process of familiarisation invented details are sought to be authenticated. An occasional criticism of the sources, a discussion of their limitations makes the texts appear all the more self-critical and convining.

Myth history and the politics of Ramjanmabhumi are thus closely linked Mythic history draws upon a stock of tamiliar stories and myths. Myths provide open forms which are filled with communal meaning. I brough them the struggle for Ramjanniabhumi is charged with a symbolic historic and a deeply communal significance These popular mythic histories structure people's consciousness and beliefs. They provide the frame through which people begin to perceive other communities and conceive of the world. They provide a rationale for communal action Mythic history appeals to people's emotions and plays upon their religious feelings. It seeks to mobilise people's anger, hatred and aggression and provides them with a target. The struggle for Lamjanmabhumi becomes a metaphor for a war against Muslims

The politics of Ramjanmabhumi and its efforts to legitimise itself through mythic history raises a deeper question about the principles which can govern our actions We need to demarcate our principles from those that lay behind the actions of individuals in the past. If intolerance, religious repression and violence have characterised the politics of earlier times, in India and in other countries, we need to distance ourselves from that politics. If other nations and other societies continue to practise such politics, we need not einu late them. The politics of Ramjanmabhumi seeks to reassert the principle of medieval politics. It aspires to re-enact in the present the politics of violence, repression and revenue. This is a politics which negates not only the secular character of the Indian Constitution but the democratic principle of equal citizenship and the rule of the law which the Constitution upholds It is a politics whose profoundly dangerous implications only the future will unfold .

Extracted from Neeladri Bhattacharya s Myth, History and the Politics of Ramjanmabhumi an essay from a collection entitled Anatomy of a Confrontation The Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhumi Issue edited by Sarvepalli Gopal published by Penguin Books India, 1991, Rs 195



BETH-EL SYNAGOGUE (Estd 1856)



The small Jewish commun ity of Calcutta have achieved a lot during their comparatively short stay in this city sir ce the mid-19th century They were mainly of the stock that mi grated to India from Iraq and other West Asia countries -"not only on account of persecutions but, having sip ped the sweetness of the new land, a good reconnaissance report went back to their brethren", leading to a stream of refugees making their home here

The number of Jews in Calcutta reached its peak (about 5,000) during World War II Later they moved to Israel in large numbers and at present there are less than 500 Jews residing in Calcutta

Wherever the Jews settled they built synagogues. Neveh Shalom the first synagogue in Cak utta, was established in 1823 by Ezekiel Musleah and Benjamin Abraham Solomon David, who purchased the plot from an Linglishman John Bowers, for Rs 16,000

The Beth-FI Synagogue (sketched above) was erected on Poilock Street in central Calcutta by David Joseph Ezra and Ezekiel Judah in 1856. The former, founder of the Calcutta Ezra family came from Baghdad. During his short stay

in Calcutta he established trade links with Baghdad, Aleppo, Damascus, Muscat and Zanzibar, exporting dates, indigo, silk and rice

The Beth-El Synagogue was subsequently renovated and enlarged into a magnificent structure by Elias Shalome Gubbay for Rs 1 lakh, paid from his personal fund. He raised the centre of the synagogue on massive columns with lofty arches and ornamental windows, paved the floors with marble and provided additional decorations. Other changes included the addition of two galleries to the Azarth Nasheem, replacing

the heavy pillars by elegant iron columns with sufficient space at the top and improving the central aspect, thus fulfilling the injunction, "This is my God and with Glory I will prepare this Temple"

The Beth-El Synagogue once bubbled with activity Regular services were conducted (this still continues) with over 100 Sephardim. But today their number has dwindled to only 30 due to the exodus of the community to Israel including the last Hazzan Abraham Abed Twena who served this synagogue for many years. He died in Jerusalem in February 1968.



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'Five Greens' Chicken Curry

Pach of the greens used in this recipe has its own singular flavour and texture. Their blending with chicken makes for such a natural combination that it seems as if they always belonged together. A very healthy and complete food.

Serves 4-6 Preparation Time: 30 minutes Cooking Time: 45 minutes

Cut each chicken into eight to 10 pieces and steep in the marinade masala for half-an-hour. Wash and clean the



greens in water several times. Put in a colander and pour boiling water over them till all the greens are limp and turn dark green. When cool, medium chop or cut the greens into 1-2 cm pieces.

Heat the ghee in a wok or pan, add the singe-fry masala and then the chicken. Stir fry for about 5 minutes until light brown and ghee is released. Add the during-cooking masala 1 followed by the milk plus the during-cooking masala 2. Simmer till done. Transfer to a baking dish.

Take the leftover marinade and add I teaspoon comflour and cream it in a blen der. Add the blended marinade and the chopped greens to the baking dish. Put 50 g of butter on top and bake on medium heat for 15 minutes.

Sprinke the garnish masala evenly on top and serve in the baking dish with rice or bread.

NOTE: The greens should not be over-cooked.

Only broiler chickens should be used for preparation.

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai: published by Penguin India

PANORAMA

akashi Nagase, 72, remembers very well what happened during the building of the Bridge on the River Kwai in the jungle here in Kanchanaburi, Thailand. The discovery of a mass grave last fall made his memories all the more exeruciating.

As an intelligence officer with the Imperial Japanese Army helping oversee construction of the "Death Railway" from Bangkok to Rangoon, Nagase witnessed numerous acts of cruelty against Allied and Asian prisoners.

"The history (of atrocities) cannot be erased," he says "All Japanese are born guilty. The sin flows in our blood."

In an act of penance for his wartine deeds Nagase travelled in 1963 from his home in Tokyo back to the bridge at Kanchanaburi and laid a wreath on one of the graves at the nearby Allied cemetery.

graves at the nearby Allied cemetery.
"At that moment," he says, "I heard a strange, sharp sound in my ears. I saw my body emitting yellow light in all directions. I felt I was pardoned by God for what I did while in the army."

Nagase is not the only one who claims to have had an otherworldly experience near the remains of the railways, for which some 60,000 Allied prisoners and as many as 300,000 Asian prisoners were used as slave labour by the Japanese

Last October Sompong Chorenchai, motorcycle repair shop owner in Kanchanaburi, had trouble sleeping. His dreams, he says, were haunted by ghosts. He saw mass graves and many, many bodies. The ghosts begged Sompong to help relieve their misery, he says.

After several weeks of such dreams he sought out Ananya Watanayam, who owns land less than a mile from the River Kwai- the Khwae Not to the Thais - and only a few dozen yards from the old railway tracks. Sompong learned that the famer had found human bones in the soil. This prompted local authorities to explore the area. They soon discovered the source of Sompong's ghosts.

The mass grave contained the skeletons of as many as 500 prisoners, some bound with wire. Some, according to those who tound them, were in positions suggesting they had been buried alive "We found one set of remains in a crouching position," says charity worker Boonlert Korkait-Sanadee "The hands were outstretched in front as though trying to crawl up from the

The discovery has brought back a flood of unhappy recollections for the people of Kanchanaburi. And in a sad irony it also has been a boon to Kanchanaburi's tourist trade, drawing renewed attention to the reconstructed bridge and the cemetery.

"So many of the prisoners and Asian slave workers died or were executed," says 70-year-old Boonrat Boonsin. "Many

were buried here, while hundreds of bodies were thrown into the River Kwai. Even the crocodiles stopped eating human flesh because so many corpses were floating in the river."

"I can still clearly remember their cruelty," says Serm Sudichitir, a naturalised Thai and former Malaysian medic who worked for the Japanese during the railway's construction. "The Japanese soldiers were barbarians. They only knew how to hit people and how to kill people. They had no mercy."

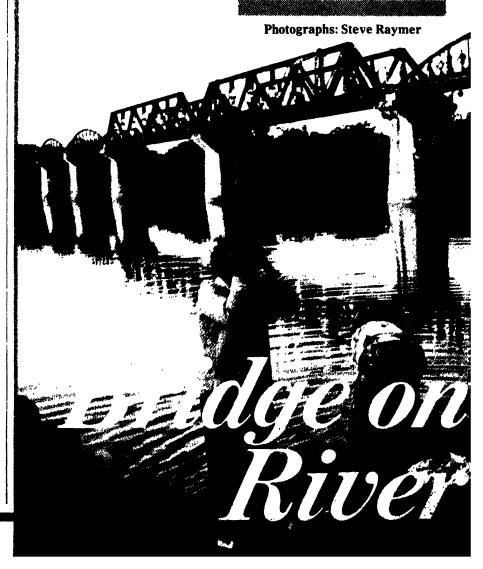
The Japanese, of course, were at war at the time and were waging a military campaign through Southeast Asia. The Bangkok-Rangoon railway was seen as a key link in supplying troops in Burma (now Myanmar) for an invasion of India.

Thousands of captured Allied soldiers were sent to Kanchanaburi to build the railway. Britons, Australians, New Zealanders, Dutch and Americans. They were joined by thousands more Asian prisoners, mostly Indians, Malayans, Sing-



It still stands as a mark of
Japanese cruelty to the
Allied prisoners of war.
Discovery of a mass
grave in Thailand last
autumn brought back the
horror of it all, says

David Lazarus



The Allied cemetery at Kanchanaburi, Thailand, contains the well-tended graves of about 4,000 prisoners of war who died building the Bridge on the River Kwai during World War II

aporeans and Tamils from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)

More than 16 000 men had peri hed by the time the 258 mile railway was completed in October 1943. Many died of exhaustion, malnutrition or malaria working in thick jungle aimid unrelenting heat, and humidity. The episode of the Death Rail way might have remained a footnote to the history of a long and violent war had not author Pierre Boulle written his dramatic (and largely contrived) novel. The Bridge on the River Kwai followed by David Lean's epic film version in 1957.

The teak bridge was not as the novel

and film portray it blow rup by British and American commandos movients before a trainload of Japanese dignitaries was to make the first cro-sing. It was destroyed along with most of the railway by Allied bombers a most hatter it was built

The real live of the construction and were considerably more deperate than the book and the film depict. Boom at recalls that some prisoner caught trying to escape from the Japane elemps were forced to day them elves holes a deep a their height. Japane elediers he say their poured gasoline on them and burned them alive.

She says he can remember the day group of A ran pasoner was marched into the clearing where the maje grave was found. The prisoner were told they were simply moving camp, and so they had brought plate, and cooking uten als. Boon at says. But when they reached the clearing some who resisted were hot or bayoneted before being throw a interthe pits.

Among the renum in the mire stave were tin plate imprinted with the year 1939. There was no ceremony for the dead any Serm the former medical

They were imply thrown into big fele in the ground

Nigise the former Jip me earny flicer says he believe that the soldier at deracily because they had been ordered to choose death in tend of the shaine of boing captured. The thinking he say made many soldiers despise their captive, and treat them as abhum in

Many American older who killed people in Vieurundeveloped mental diorder. Vigite eberve. The wine thing happened to Sevet older in Africast in But why havent we ever heard of any Japane e older complaining et mental rigus hy They think they are not reponsible for what they did because they were merely ferced to do it under the empetor's order.

fody the finied bidge eccu tructed of teel till find. It will rebuilt by the Japanese in a war indemnity and later purchised from the Allie by Thailand for the million.

32 million

The I has earment of the railroad which used to run from the capital Banakek all the way to the Burmar border now end at Nam Tok about 40 mile north of Kancha naburi. From there it disappear unto the overgrown jumple.

But at Kinchandrun to the harm from many oldfuner who repender the nerror of the Japanese amportandow and busloads of foreigner one to cent the bridge looks anything like todd in the movie which was filmed in Sri Linka not I haland.

For many what could be an emotionally touching experience as diminated by the hard touch of vendors, elling take R lex watches, phony Gueer bay, and plachy River Kwai I hirts. Every December Kanchanaburi hold, an annual River Kwai festival, with thrework, and other tivities.

The mass grave probably will be added to most tourists itineranes. When all the remains were collected from the pit. Chinese and Than monk performed religious rites to bring peace to the treabled soul, that had him there.

And Sompony Chorench to leeping well again (National Geographic News Service)

Village women wash laundry below the famous bridge over the River Kwai at Kanchanaburi, Thailand



LIMELIGHT

e has lost some weight and developed a nice tan. This coupled with his unkempt hair, calloused hands, and pock-marked face makes him look a total misfit in a jogging suit and five star surroundings, with a mug of beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other There is something so rustic about him

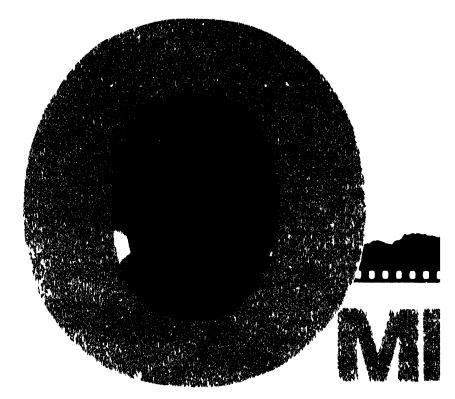
But that is hardly his fault. He has just come from his daily warmup-pulling a rickshaw for two hours continuously on the city streets. Tramping barefeet through the muck and grime that is Calcut ta with two passengers for company You might have seen him but you probably did not notice him Just like hundreds of other rickshaw pullers. He is one of them. And yet he is one of India's most talented and well-known actors

Om Puri has a passion for acting. And an ever greater passion for enacting it well, down to the very last detail. He has a voracious appetite for life and experience And from here he derives that wild energy which he radiates on screen, acting from his heart and gut and mellowing or raging as the role demands

At 40, he has been in about a 100 films Most of them memorable Mainly due to his soul-stirring performances. And his hard work and integrity In spite of it all his modesty will amaze you "I do not consid er myself a trend setter," says the actor "In a way I've been lucky that I ve had the opportunity to work with a whole range of talented directors and also in terms of my choice of roles" That surely is not the secret of his success. Then what is?

Om Puri is hewn from rough cloth. The story goes back to Sanaur near Patiala, where he did his schooling after his father left the army and joined the railways "I've had a rich childhood. Though I was dep rived in many senses, this deprivation it self was enriching in terms of sensitivity he says in a warm baritone 'And a lot of people have contributed to this More friends and less family. Therefore, there is a whole series of friends in the making of Om Pun

Foremost among them is the other stal wart of parallel cinema-Naseeruddin Shah "Our friendship started during our NSD (National School of Drama) days in the early Seventies," says Puri "Coming from a small village to a big city was a culture shock for me I was very shy and withdrawn During one of the rehearsals, Alkazı, the then director, was not giving the acting students a chance to try out the roles This angered me and yet I was scared of Alkazı I mustered enough courage to speak up, but Alkazı was angry I did nt know whether I had done the right thing Naseer came to me and said. I know you'd have to speak out some day, Om,' and that was the beginning of our beautiful friendship " Puri joined FTI in



Arguably the finest actor in cinema today, **Om Puri** is sheer joy to watch on screen, his histrionic range unfolding gloriously. NANDITA CHAUDHURI met the artiste in Calcutta

1974 when an industrialist promised him a scholarship but later failed to honour it. It was Naseer who came to his rescue Even during his early days as a struggling actor in Bombay, he staved at Naseer's place

It was at Khalsa College, Patiala, while studying history and politics that Om Puri got involved in plays and decided to become an actor He did odd jobs, including that of a clerk, and acted with the Punjab Kala Manch. This affected his work and he was promptly thrown out When the story got around, his professors in college were sympathetic and offered him a job as a lab-assistant

In 1971, he won a government scho larship to study at the National School of Drama in Delhi under the stalwart Ibrahim Alkazı "What I am today, frankly, I owe it to Alkazı He took a personal interest in me He would find out personal details about the new students from the seniors and accordingly suggest and help them." Citing an instance he adds, "In my case, it was a culture shock and language barrier My English was poor and as a result, I suffered from a complex So Alkazı en couraged me to read the papers, converse with friends and correct my errors in the process. He even told me to carry a dictionary around till I lost my inhibitions He was punctual, hard-working, humorous, an ideal teacher and a great person My sense of hard work, professionalism and integrity comes from him

After NSD, he freelanced for a year in Hindi theatre and hung around in Delhi till he realised that it was not as thriving as he had thought "To be a stage actor of the Hindi or Punjabi theatre, I'd have to look around for a job to keep me going And part-time acting was not my cup of tea So the next best choice was films " So in 1974, it was the film institute in Pune, sharing ideas with Suresh Oberoi, Rakesh Bedi, Syed Mirza and others In 1976, he moved to Bombay "with no illusions in spite of qualifications" and did small roles

and taught for a year at the Actors' Studio

The big break came with Aakrosh, when the whole gamut of avant garde filmmakers came to know of his talent. This was soon to be followed by Ray's Sadgati, Benegal's Arohan and some others "As far as commercial cinema was concerned, the response was very luke warm. I was offered roles as a villam or a henchman (that's how they could slot me in), which I refused," says the actor "I chose not to ammerse myself in commercial films. My attitude to the odd commercial film is totally on a professional level and the interest remains on the surface level only"

Life became a lot easier after 1986, after Ardh Satya, that is Awards and recognition followed closely Apart from the

two National Awards for Arohan and Ardh Satya in 1981 and 1984 respectively, he also won the Karlovy Vary award in 1984 for Ardh Satya and the Soviet Land Nehru Award in 1987 and has been honoured with the Padmashree in 1990

So what is it that sets him apart? A particular method perhaps? "I don't think any particular method has anything to do with setting me apart. There are others like Naseer, Smita and Shabana—all equally talented and having experimented successfully in a similar kind of cinema. In my case, perhaps, it's the consistency. I've been consistent in my choice of roles," is his modest reply. "In all the characters I portray, I don't altogether become a different individual. For example, I remain Om Puri playing Hasari. Pal. So essentially it's

the same medium, that is, my body, being used in different forms. And my body is different from Naseer's. So there are different instruments doing equally effective work in a different manner; perhaps this is what is so unique. Certain roles however, come to you more easily than others. The emotionally intense roles come to me more easily because as a person I'm a very sensitive individual. In exuberant roles, where buffoonery is needed, I need to put in that little bit of extra effort."

The future of parallel cinema, according to Om Pun, though not very bleak, has certainly been affected by television and the video scene "I think in future the parallel cinema should depend heavily on TV because the idea eventually is that your work should be seen " Having work ed with some of the best directors of the parallel cinema-Govind Nihalani, Shyam Benegal, Girish Kathad, Mrinal Sen, Satyajit Ray, Goutam Ghose, Ketan Mehta and others- all of whom he admires, he nevertheless enjoys working with Nihalani most "I admire his intensity, passion and commitment. He depends heavily on the actor's performance, so he generally bulbes the best out of you He does a lot of paper work which makes the actor feel emotionally secure Possibly also because I've worked with him most, though he's been ignoring me for the last couple of years,' he grins

He finds it a little difficult to mention the films where he's given some of his best performances. Nevertheless, Arohan, Susman, Iamas and Aakrosh would come easily to mind incidentally all Nihalani films. He however, finds the art films a little restricted, because the challenges are limited, mostly the same narrative form, except for Jaine Bhi Do Yaro and Grenesis, which were 'experimental and hence challenging"

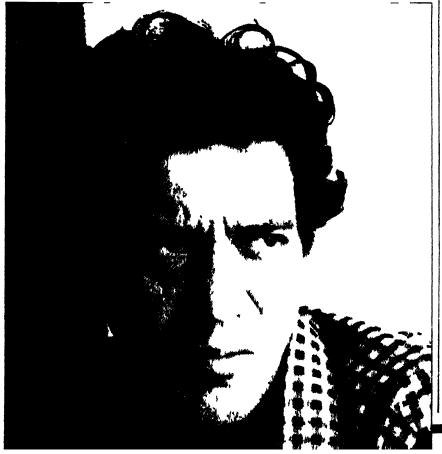
Though he has no immediate plans of branching off into writing or directing, he feels that in future, like minded people like Naseer, Shabana and me should get together and make films with good scripts dealing with Indian problems, for the international market 'something on the lines of Salaam Bombay Or Gandhu Why should only international filmmakers make films on India?" Citing Kamalahasan, he says "I like his attitude He's been promoting good films"

Do contemporary issues affect him? Certainly as a person Though I ve no intentions of joining active politics, I m pained at what's happening in Punjab, Assam and Bihar And I think the politicians are largely responsible for this Punjab, especially, is a problem created by the politicians and today it has got totally out of hand. Do you think people are ever going to remember Devi Lal, Charan Singh.









'CALCUTTA IS A VERY

Q: Have you read the book (Lapierre's City of Joy)?

A: No I haven't, though I had bought the book with all good intentions.

Q: Why?

A: Because when I heard that it was very different from the script, I thought that it might interfere with my acting. You generally look for something and find something altogether different. I really can't compare the two. It's only when people ask me whether a certain scene is there or not, only then I realise the difference between the book and the script.

Q: Don't you feel the film is a squalid portrayal of the city, highlighting the misery of the people?

A: No I don't think so. At least the script is not so degrading to the city.

Q: Is it because you are in it?

A: Could be. But if you believe me and

trust me, you'll agree too.

I do agree that people tend to be-come a little cautious if a particular thing is not seen in the right perspective. There is nothing wrong with poverty, it's all over the world. There's nothing to be ashamed of in looking at povery objectively. A number of our filmmakers like Ray, Sen, Benegal and Nihalani have all depicted it. In fact I've worked in a number of films which deal with it, but it should be seen in the right perspective, as in Paar or Shodh. So I wouldn't be over cautious. Even in Paar and Shodh, I never looked at it to find whether it was degrading to me as an Indian. So with the same spirit, I look at this film script.

Q: But don't you think foreigners tend to exploit poverty?

A: We tend to forget that we can't hide poverty when we allow foreigners to come into an open society with a free press. But here the case is different. Here is a filmmaker with a certain reputation and a certain sensitivity attached to it. He's not putting it bluntly. He's not Spielberg. People have seen his work in Killing Fields and Mission. So I feel that we must trust him and he will deal with this subject with the same kind of sensitivity as in Killing Fields and Mission.

Q: Personally, how do you like working with this unit?

A: I've worked with foreign units before. I did a small part in Jewel in the Crown and Gandhi and a major role in a Canadian movie, Sam and Me, which will be released shortly.

To begin with they have much better and sophisticated equipment and frankly, are more organised. I don't mean to say that our films are not organised. When I say that, I'm not really referring to Shyam or Govind or Satyaiit. They may have less resources, no fancy equipment and

modest sites, but artistically they are very organised. In this unit, the production and administrative sides are more organised. They have thorough professionals handling the show. That's the major difference.

Q: How has the interaction been?

A: Smooth. Since they are shooting in a foreign country, they are on their best behaviour. If we were shooting abroad, we'll be very cautions too.

Q: So does that mean you are taking the upper hand now?

A: Yes. I'm also a professional and I would also like to prove to them that we are no less professional than them. So it's a very healthy kind of a competition.

Q: What about your co-stars? Especially Shabana?

A: I don't find it difficult to interact

deal with Indian problems throughout. It's the occasional Gandhi or City Of Joy. Look at Torn Alter, the poor fellow is an Indian citizen but has to wait for a good role in an Indian to come his way, only because of his looks. The same will be the fate of an Indian actor who is settled in Hollywood. But certainly, it's a good exposure, and an image-enhancer. Frankly, when one says yes to a film there are other aspects besides future plans. Joffe's a wonderful director, it's an international project, there is good money and Shyam isn't making a film as yetso I might as well do it yaar.

Q: What about the tremendous physical effort you're putting in for the role of

Hasari Pal?

A: That's because certain roles demand a certain kind of physical work. In Susman, where I played a weaver, I learnt weaving and spun 40m of yarn



even with strangers because a person's personal behaviour doesn't bother me. While acting, Shabana is not Shabana to me. She is whatever role she's playing—in this case Aloka. To phir, I really don't mind as long as the other person has a professional attitude. Besides, I have worked with Shabana before in a number of films and I enjoy working with her.

Q: You have been putting in a lot of effort into this particular movie. Is it a stepping stone to Hollywood?

A: You may interpret it any way you want to. But I can't see myself leaving Bombay and settling down in, say, Beverley Hills. And I don't think that the American or international cinema will

which I presented to a number of friends, including Shabana. You'll have to give the impression at least that you've handled a loom. Similarly, here, I have to show that I feel comfortable with the rickshaw. I will be seen in the film handling a rickshaw. There is a process when you are learning and a process when you've learnt it—and the difference is obvious. That's why it's important that I go over this whole exercise of pulling a rickshaw. One should not indulge in professional cheating, like using someone else's hands or feet. I don't believe in it personally.

Q: For how long have you been practising to pull the rickshaw?

VOLATILE CITY'

A: I practised continuously for 15 days. Every morning at 6 am I took the rickshaw from the hotel (Grand) with two mock passengers, all the way to Babughat, the Kidderpore fly-over, Wellesley and so on. I pulled continuously till 8-8.30 am or so. The first two days I was in my jogging suit, but realised I drew too much attention. Subsequently, I changed into a *lungi* and a shirt.

Q: Do you follow the Stanislavski school, then?

A: Well, frankly I haven't read very much because from my first year at NSD, Alkazi always warned me not to touch books, but to concentrate on what is taught in the classes and he considered "experience as the best teacher". Stanislavski no doubt was the first person who looked at acting in a more organised and scientific man-

O: You have theen putting in a lot of effort into this particular film (*City of Joy*), is it a stepping stone to Hellywood?
A: You may interpret it any way you want to.



ner, and gave it some kind of a literary form. No other school can deny his contribution because that remains as a root and will always remain so. I do imbibe my basics from him, maybe subconsciously. But I don't consciously follow what he said. But my favourite book on acting, which is very simple and which I treat like a *Gita* of acting is Six Sessions by Bulasvaski. And generally over the years, after having worked in over 100 films, one has a way of working. You may call it my method or whatever.

Q: So, how would you describe your

particular method?

A: When I get a script, I go over it and study the particular world in that particular script in terms of milieu, circumstances, period, setting, and so forth. And in this whole theoretical background I try to understand the history of it in order to get a broad view. And then I move down to my role, and try to understand that particular character, his psyche, his family background. This is the literary work, the process of creation. I also try to understand the other characters with whom I will be interacting. The world is seen only from the surface in a script, which I dig deep into and try to imagine as closely and as visually as possible—like a dream.

Q: And where do you get your material for your dream?

A: From day-to-day observations, books, television, newspapers, photographs. Even if you are not acting, you keep storing the information. This has become second nature to me—to observe life and store it as in a computer and use it whenever it is necessary. It helps you develop a certain kind of sensitivity and this becomes your mental work

Q: Do you consider your face your fortune?

A: No. I don't think it's only my face. There are more interesting, more intense faces than mine. I don't think I would have lasted that long had it only been just the face.

Q: Since most of your films like Tamas or Ardh Satya have a social message, what is the message in City of Joy?

A: There isn't just one message but a number of them. One, that disparities exist at all levels and within these existing disparities, without disturbing the social system, how best you can retain your dignity is very important. At times, you may even have to stand up and fight for it.

Here, Hasari looks at the positive side of life in spite of his sufferings, in spite of being cornered. He still smiles. He still thinks of his daughter's wedding. Without tramping on anybody, he manoeuvres his way through all the chaos to achieve his aims with dignity. And this requires an enormous amount

of strength.

Q: What is your opinion of the city?
A: Calcutta is much more vibrant than Bombay and culturally more rich. But it is also a very volatile city, possibly because the people here are constantly under pressure. Here, people stand and watch shooting for eight hours at a stretch and you wonder, "My God! They have no work!"

Q: What is next on the cards after the City of Joy?

A: I will be acting in Sandip Ray's Target, a full length feature film.

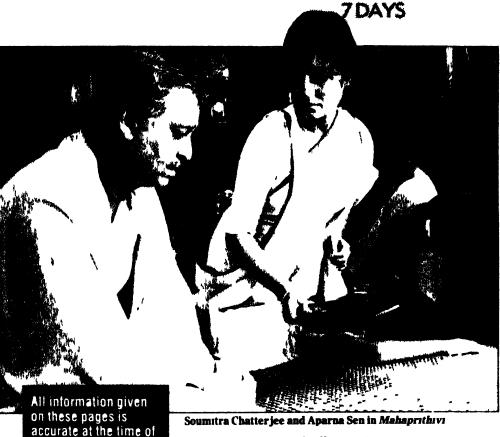
and politicians of their calibre? History will simply throw them into the gutter." What is his social sensitivity as an artist? "Not much. It's easier to play the role of an activist on screen. But to be that role in real life is more difficult."

Yet it is life, emotions and experiences which have made him a sensitive actor. "As a child, I spent hours watching people and looking at life pass by The joys of living should not be snatched away from you---you should find ways and means to keep in touch with life. Even now I shamelessly sit in small, roadside dhabas for a cup of tea. I try and behave as normally as possible so that people who are in awe of film personalities, start feeling comfortable in my presence. I ask them questions about themselves so that they feel good and say, 'Om Puri's a nice person, he treats you like a star'-to apko uske number bhi mil gaye good behaviour ke live," smiles the pucca diplomat-actor.

And very diplomatically too he waves aside all queries about extramarital affairs. "So now you want to peep into the dark corners of my life? Well, there aren't any fancy skeletons. Just normal ones. I like flirting. Just decent flirting, it's healthy. But what about stimulating affairs? "Well every affair stimulates you," says Puri. "An affair need not only culminate in bed. It should enrich you emotionally. When I say flirting, I mean it helps you come closer to each other so that you feel more relaxed in each other's company. And it enriches you as an actor. So passion plays an important part in my life as it helps me rediscover myself from time to time.

Like passion, thinking also plays an important role in his life. "I think a lot. It inspires me to do better." Just as Dilip Kumar, Balraj Sahni, Robert De Niro or Alec Guinness inspires him."When you hear that De Niro's put on 80 lbs for Raging Bull, you think, "God! This guy's crazy!" Then you hear, he's reduced again and it makes you realise the hard work and integrity that's behind it. "Though he was exposed to foreign films quite late, the actor who attracted him most was Alec-Guinness."He attracted me also because of this body. I think he has a body which is perfect for an actor--he can play both a king and a pauper with equal ease," says Puri, who also is at complete ease playing a rickshaw-puller or a police officer.

From that day in 1970, when he first visited Bombay, full of awe like Hasarı Pal when he first comes to Calcutta, and today when he enacts those same emotions at a price, according to his terms—Om Puri has traversed a long terrain in terms of experience, emotions and sensitivity. And all this has culminated into some of the finest acting on the Indian screen. Because Om Puri is not just a fine actor, he is also a fine person.



REGULAR SHOWS

going to press

Hindi Films

• Dushman Devta Opera (Lenin Sarani 281849), Gem (AJC Bose Road, 249828) Prabhat (Chittaranjan Avenue 390762), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani 551133) Priya (Rashbehari Avenue, 464440) Jagat (APC Road 365108)---4 shows

A film by And Ganguly, starring Dharmendra Aditya Pancholi, Dimple Kapadin Sonam and Sadashiv Amrapurkar The music 19 by Bappi Lahun

• Ghar Parivaar: Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442) -4

Directed by Mohanji Prasad and with music by Kalyanji Anandji, the film stars Rajesh Khanna Moushu mi Chatterjee, Rishi Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Kiran, Shoma Anand, Shafi Inamda: and Asranı

 Haque (A): Roxy (Chowring hee Place, 284238) -4 shows

A film on a woman's struggle against social injustice, starring Dumple Kapadia, Sonu Waha and Anupam Kher The music is by Anand Milind

 Hatyarin (A): Hind (Ganesh Chandra Avenue, 274259), Krish na (T C Dutta Street 250437) Rupalı (Ashutosh Mookerjee Road

474403) Purnasree (Raja Raj Kis sen Street 554033)

Deepak Parashar Amita Nan gua Sri Prada and Jamuna are the chief attractions of this film. The musk is by Naresh Sharma

• Sanam Bewafa Lotus (5 N Banerjee Road 247664) 12 3 6

A film on teenage love starring Salman Khan and Chandru It is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor

Bengali Films

• Ananda: Uttara (Bidhan Sarani, 5>200) Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 150680) Ujjala (Russa Road 478666)- 3 shows

Directed by Kumar Swapan who also acts in along with Ramesh warı Anupama Kalı, Anıl, Joy and Chinmoy The music is by Ajoy Kumar and Y S Mulko

• Beder Meye Josna Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 553413) Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road 359561) Bharati (S.P. Mukheriee Road, 1/1686) 1 4 7

One of the recent big hits star ring Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh Others in the cast are Saifuddin, Dildar, Nasır Khan, Abbas Soma, Anamika Subhendu Amarnath and Bulbul The film is directed by Matiyur Rehman Panu and the music is by Abu Laher

• Bidhir Bidhan. Darpana (Bidhan Sarani 558080) Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road 474567) 2 30, 5 30 8 15 Prachi (AJC Bose Road, 271282)-2 5, 7 45

Arun Govil Satabdi Roy, Rannt Mullick Sumitra Mukherjee, Papia Adhikari, Mohan Choti Bejoy Mohanty Sangeeta Das and Tapas Paul comprise the main cast of this film directed by Mohammed Mohsin The music is by Akshay Mohanty

• Mahaprithivi Mınar (Bıdhan Saranı 552753) Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road 474567) Chha

Arun Govil and Satabdı Roy ın Bidhir Bidhan



bighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 352740)-3, 5 45 8 15

A Mrinal Sen film starring Vic tor Banenee Soumitra Chattenee Geeta Sen Anjan Dutt Anusua Manumdar and Aparna Sen

Foreign Films

- Devil in the Flesh (A) Metro (Chowringhee Road 280141)-4 shows
- Love Me (A) Lighthouse (Humayun Place 2910)1) 4 apon a
- Jakarta (A) Jamuna (Marquis Street 243715) 4 shows

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• Dost: Orient (Bentinck Street 281917) Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270) Kalika (Sadananda koad 478141)-4 shows

Mithun Chakraborty and Amla are the lead pair. The film is



A scene from the play, Madhab Malanch: Kainya

directed by A. Mur ili Mohan Rao and the music is by R.D. Burman

special Events

7 April onwards: 12 noon - 8 pm

An exhibition of Satish Guptas recent works entitled The Silent Flute till April 14

At Chitrikoot Art Gillety (55 Giriahat Road (55314)

8 13 April 6 30 pm

A festival of Bengali plays in memory i Del ishis Dasgupta fe atures Chetn's Incinnith on 8th Sundaram's Saran Bagan in 9th Arva Theatres Midhab Milanchi Kamya on 10th Nandikat s Sank hapurer Sukanya on 11th Gan dhar's Veelam Neelam on 12th and Bohurupec & Rajdarshan n At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road 284302)

8 April onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm All India Tine Arts & Crafts Society will hold an exhibition of paintings in the West and Central galiencs till April 21

 Dipinkar Mukhopadhyav will hold his paintings exhibition in the North Gallery till April 14

9 April onwards. 3 pm - 8 pm Asoke Roy and others will hold a week long exhibition of paintings in the North Gallery

At Academy of Line Arts (Cathedral Road 284302) 13 April 6 30 pm

Animika presents the Hindi comedy play Barr B rays based on Badal Sucar's original Bengali script and translated by Dr Pratibha Agarwal Directed by Bimal Lath the cast includes Vinita Re llin Ajay Chatturwedi A agesh Suir Anni Bhatticharya Laxmi Prasad Ajas Mishra Dinesh Thakkar and Aditi Sucar

At Kila Mindir [Basement] (Shakespi are Sar ini 449086)

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) Al 101 at 0230 Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Air (5) Al-306 at 1915 Dep (5) Al-306 at 2020

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (6) Al 309 at 1910 Dep (6) Al 309 at 2025 London-Delhi-Calcutta Arr (7) Al-132/1328 at 1230

* Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta Arr (4) SU-537 at 1525

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow Dep (4) SU-538 at 1725

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanol Arr (2) SU 541 at 0640 Dep (2) SU-541 at 0°50 * Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-

Tashkent-Moscow Arr (2) SU 542 at 1615 Dep (2) SU 542 at 1815

Amman-Calcutta Arr (4) RJ 184 at 0645 Calcutta-Amman Dep (5) RJ 185 at 0530

+ Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok Arr (1) RO-063 at 1115 Arr (6) RO-063 at 1045 Dep (1) RO 063 at 1230 Dep (6) RO-063 at 1200 + Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest Arr (1 6) RO-064 at 2015 Dep (1 6) RO-064 at 2130

Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4) SQ-420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-420 at 1210

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep (2 4 7)

IC 731 at 0900 Dep (1 3 6) TG 314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta Arr (2 4 7) IC 732 at 1500 Arr (1 3 6) TG 313 at 1240

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (2 4 7) IC 747 at 1600 Dep (1 5) RA-214 at 1455 Kathmandu-Calcutta Arr (2 4

7) IC 748 at 1930 Arr (1 5) RA 213 at 13 5

Calcutta-Dhaka Dep (3 6) IC 723 at 1340 Dep (daily) BG 092 at 1220 and BG 094 at 1935

Dhaks-Calcutta Arr (3 6) IC 724 at 1600 Arr (daily) BG 091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855

Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1950

Chittagong-Calcutta Arr (2 5) BG-697 at 1910

Calcutta-Paro Dep (2) KB 106 at 0900 Arr (2) KB 105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India sus-

Calcutta-Bombay Dep (2) Al 101 at 0230 Delhi-Calcutta Arr (1) Al 1378 at 1230

Indian Airlines a

Celcutta-Delhi Dep (daily) IG-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay Dep (daily) IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850 Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0750 and IC-

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is however, subject to change Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433

274 at 1850

Calcutta-Madras Dep (daily) IC 765 at 1700 Arr (daily) IC 766

Calcutte-Bangalore Dep (daily) IC-771 at 0610 Arr (daily) IC 7/2 at 1200

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta Arr (daily) IC 409 at

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-410 at 0615

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1340 Dep (1 3 5 6) IC-729 at 0800 Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1630 Arr (1 3 5 6) IC-730 at 1100

Calcutta-Agertala Dop (daily) IC-743 at 1330 Dep (3 5 6 7) IC-241 at 0700 Dep (1 2 4) IC 241 at 0700 Arr (daily) IC-744 at 1600 Arr (3 5, 6, 7) IC-242 at 1350 Arr (1 2 4) IC-242 at 0900 Calcutta-Port Biair-Car Nicobar Dep (1) IC-287 at 0530 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (2 4 6) IC-285 at 0530 Arr (2 4 6) IC-286 at 1000 Calcutta-Dibrugarh Dep (daily) IC-201 at 1400 Arr (daily) IC 202 at 1730

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily)

IC-221 at 1100 Arr (daily) IC 222 at 1320

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta Dep (2 3 4 5 7) IC-213 at 0600 Arr (2 3 4 5 7) 1 IC-213 at 0955

Calcutta-Slicher-Imphal Dep (daily) IC-255 at 1050 Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1530

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (1 2 4 7) IC 269 at 1650 Arr (1 2 4 7) IC-270 at 1910 Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-

Hyderabad Dep (3 5 6) IC-269 at 1650 Arr (3 5 6) IC-270 at 2040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep (1 3 5 7) IC-219 at 0840 Arr (1 3 5 7) IC-220 at 1320 Calcutte-Hyderabed Dep (1 2 7) IC 277 at 1745 Arr (1 2 7) IC-278 at 2215

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madres Dep (1 2 4 6) IC-542 at 0700 Arr (1 2 4 6) IC-541 at 0915

Calcutta-Imphal Dep (2 4 6) IC 259 at 1330 Arr (2 4 6) IC-260 at 1610

of III

Calcutta-Agertala-Kalissahar Dep (2 4) PF 729 at 0930 Arr (2 4) PF 730 at 1330

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Taahkant Calcuttà + No traffic rights on Calcutta Bangkok Calcutta

Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (7): PF-708 at 1150. Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-705 at 0855, Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-707 at 0855; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-708 at 1250, Arr. (1, 3, 6, 7): PF-708 at 1250, Arr. (1, 3, 6): PF-718 at 0745. Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-718 at 0745. Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-718 at 0745. Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-718 at 0745.

(1, 3, 5, 6): PF-701 at 0930; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): PF-702 at 1400.
Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong-Calcutta: Dep. (7): PF-701 at 1210; Arr. (7): PF-702 at 1615.

Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival		Departure		SOUTH-EASTERN	Arrival	
				_			RAILWAY		
Up COAA	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn	Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
2311 3005	19-00 19-20	Deihi-Kaika Meli Amriteer Meli	8-30 8-05	2312 3008	6003	20-40	Medras Meli	7-00	6004
3003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Aliahabad	13-15	3004	8002	19-20	Bombey Mell via Negour	8-00	8001
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	2056
	-10	press via Gaya-Varanasi	10-00	2302	8034	20-20	Ahmedebed Express	5-05	8035
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8030	11-30	Bombey Express via Nagour	15-50	8026
		Arr-Wed, Fri. & Sun.			2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex-	11-50	2842
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304		,,,,,,	Press		
	0-10		10-00	2007	2611	22-35	Bangalore Express	13-45	2612
		prees via Patna Dep-Mon, Wed. Frl. & Sun.					Dep-Tues		
٠.		Arr-Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat.			1		Arr-Sun.		
2301	16-00	Raidhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	8014
		week			8011	6-10	lepet Express	21-45	8012
		Dep-Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. &			8005	21-00	Sembelour Express	7-30	8006
		Sun.			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hetia Express	ð-05	8016
		Arr-Tues, Wed. Thurs, Sat. &			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8006
		Sun.			8409	19-35	Jegenneth (Puri) Express Via	7-45	8410
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jemmu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	2374	1		Narai		
, _		press Tri-Wkly			2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubeneewar) Ex-	21-20	2622
		Dep-Tues. Fri. & Sat.					press		
		Arr—Tues. Wed. & Sat.			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex-	14-55	8046
2547	13-15	Purbanchel (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548			press		
 ,	.0-10	press	~ IU		8017	16-45	Purulia Express	11-20	8016
		DepMon. & Thurs.			1 30		Dep-Except Saturday		
		Arr-Thurs. & Mon.			İ		Arr-Except Sunday		
		rain illuid. & morr.			2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan-	22-15	_
3009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand	7-20	3010			drum Central Express		
		Chord					Monday only		
3007	9-45	Udayen Abha Toofan Ex-	18-15	3008	l —	14-10	Trivendrum Central - Howrah	13-45	2601
		press via Main Line			ł		- Guwahati Express		
					1		Saturday only		
3011	20-45	Dethi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	_	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	1		Guwahati Weekly Express		
3021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	ł		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
5659	17-35	Kamara (Grandhatt) Prosess	6-30	5000			Thursday only		
3317		Kemrup (Guwahati) Express		5660	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	
3029	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318			Terminus Weekly Express		
	17-15	Coeffield Express	10-30	3030	1		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3035	18-20	Asensol Express	8-45	3036	l		Saturday only		
3031	21-00	Denepur Express	6-35	3032	2652	22-35	Coohin Herbour Terminus	13-45	2651
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkty Express	6-00	3072			Superfact Express (via		
		Dep-Tues, Thurs, & Sat.			1		Visekhapetnem & Macires)		
		Arr-Mon. Thurs. & Sat.			1		Dep-Fri. & Sun		
3015	9-55	Sentiniketen Express	15-40	3016			Arr—Tues, & Fri.		
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1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express	7-30	1172	-5.7		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
		Dep-Tues, & Wed.			ł		& Cuttack)		
		Arr-Sat. & Sun.			1		Wednesday only		
3327	15-25	Shektipunj (Chopen) Ex-	7-30	3326	l —	14-10		13-45	2673
		press			1		Bangalore City-Guwahati Weekiy Express (via Howrah	-	
		Dep & Arr-Mon. & Fri.			1		& Cuttack)		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express	10-40	5050	1		Monday only		
- - · -		Dep & Arr-Sunday			2610	22-35	Patne-Cochin Herbour Ter-	22-15	
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143	19-00	Derjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	ENQU	RIES: Fo	round the clock information of	Eagtorn F	tellwer
1153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154	traine,	please d	lei 203545-54 for in-coming train	a: 203636	-44 fo
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	9152	all oth	ier Inform	nation. For information about	reservette	-
3103	18-20	Shagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104	- Cacter	n and So	uth Eastern Reliveve treine, die	202500	Mrown 1
5185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5188			weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm t		

RIES

March 21---April 20

The moon's quarter in your sign, according to Western astrology, galvanises your personal frontier, and here lashes too must be reckoned. By April 11, parents, home and property affairs will have an extra significance. In romance, always remember that the path of true love never runs smooth, but the path is welcome. The week promises much financial jugglery

> **AURUS** April 21-May 20

Expenses, trips, ties and secret connections, collaborations and visits to hospitals, social centres and holy places comprise the week. You and your dear ones are pro-ne to health hazards. You will have your share of romance. In finance, there will be gains and losses, but get ready for massive

EMINI

investments.

May 21-June 20 Even if a few disgruntled elements oppose

your plans, be tactful and keep your eye on the main objective and try to sweet-talk folks or mates into agreeing on a few points at least. Romance promises kicks and kisses and perhaps near-misses. Finanče involves legacy, property, com-mission and perks. Your health could run into rough weather as with you it is mind over matter.

ANCER

June 21-July 20 You are in for a round of sustained hard

work as you push yourself to the outer limits. Elders and family members will prove demanding. Romance involves erratic going with a few bumps and speedbreakers. In finance, you will get the feel of hard cash. Your health will depend upon your sensitivity and eating habits. Neglect snides and remarks. The next two weeks suggest a journey.

July 21-August 21 The week promises

romance, entertain-ment, a certain style in getting things done, but you may also have health problems. Romance will be hectic and the heart will be the hunter; here a little tightrope walking will certainly help. April 8, 9, 12 and 13 suggest monetary transactions, buying.



selling and shopping for Leons.

Stomach, heart and the back may trouble you. Travel is more

children and grand-children and a wee bit of enter-

tainment characterise the week.

Romance promises a bout of

love and laughter around April

10. Mix finance with amusement

and galety for more mileage and

results will be better. The first

four days of the week may in-

clude stomach and nerve trou-

bles. Travel includes major

moves and it all commences this

BIRTHDAYS

Moon's tast quarter: Romance,

atus and gains sum it all up.

(ou will reap a rich harvest, go

places, he appreciated, organies superty, and he fucky with children and grandchildren. Loans, funds and investments complete.

Moon conjunction Saturn: Slight tensions, uncertainty and maybe upsets will be there because of the Saturn Impinge in your solar scope. But June, August, 'October and perhaps December will be platty gloud for you, so there's the manual to mean to werry.

Moon andle am: Maters will p pur see, so have falls and a put seed with your slimbad

August 22-Sept 22

Loans and funds,

IRGO

than likely.

week.

April 7

April 8















IBRA

Sept 23---Oct 22

The moon's quarter makes for ties, links, travel, contacts, clashes and certainly some heart-burning too for Librans, in romance, not all the pressure and incoveniences will stop you from offering a rose or scooting to the movies or bowing on bended knees. Finance includes promises and also a few cheques to make you smile.



CORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 22 The main trends of the week are shift, transfer, commuting, loans, in-

vestments and a focus on home,

your bug bear. Be careful about your diet. Travel, collaborations, news and views, communica-tions and contacts give an extra edge, making for victory in any competition.

April 11

Moon askille Mers: The energy from Mers is just what you need to make a breakthrough. Secret deals and regulations form an integral part of the year. Travel and remands aborn to be intersected.

of 12 A. A.

property, designing and furnishing during the last three days. Romance will be excellent in bits and snatches. Finance promises investments, securities, shares and capital formation. A job hop is probable. You will be careless regarding your health and also accident-prone.



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23--- Dec 20 Impulsive buying and ments, a bit of confusion about

valuables, documents, passports, visas and banks drafts are the week's main trends. In romance, the heart will pulsate and the fair one will respond. Finance will require you to be clear and concise in dealings and contracts. Also remember, cheques may bounce. Regarding your health, jogging, a game of badminton or table-tennis should keep the doctor away.

APRICORN

Dec 21-Jan 19 Home, property, pa-rents, in-laws and im-

migration are favourably signified. Moods fluctuate wildly as sun conjuncts Saturn according to Western astrology. The moon-Jupiter conjunction means two hearts beat as one, though opinions and ideas differ. Financial matters are favoured on April 12 and 13. Care and caution in. health matters are advisable. Capricornians will use their travel kit for a possible stopover.

QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18 The main trends of

the week are education, research, communication, travel and a new enterprise. In romance, you slay others with your charm and humour. Money is already in the pipeline. After April 7 your health improves. Travel is on the cards, but you do not have to make it at breakneck speed.

ISCES

Feb 19--- March 20 Overvaulting ambi-

tion, buying, selling. trading, sales and commission, and possibly a change in your work schedule and style are the week's highlights. In romance, passion and sympathy could cloud your judgement. But that's what being in love is all about. In finance, you could pick up a bargain, otherwise the week finds you negotiating. Work pressures might tell on your health, so keep evenings free. A journey at short notice is likely. Mohan reports on the Vafirst Merchants Cup Quiz held in Calcutta.

"First, I must admit I had not attended any quizzes in Calcutta before. I had taken part in quizzes in Delhi and also seen quiz programmes on TV. However, the Officer's Choice quiz held at the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club (CC&FC) and sponsored by Cruickshank truly bowled me over. It was more than a quiz—It was two days of entertainment, show business and intellectual callisthenics. Quizmaster Derek O'Brien really pulled out all the stops and (as one newspaper put it) must surely be the most popular quizmaster around today". I also had the opportunity of seeing the legendary Neil O'Brien conduct two rounds in the final as guest QM—the two stirring up a very enjoyable quiz cooktail.

"To start with there were
130 teams—the entries read
like a corporate who's who of
indian business. Publications, ad agencies, tea wallahs, banks, airlines, multinats and even executives
from the public sector were
in the fray. It was unfortunate
that only 20 teams could be
accommodated for the semifinals and I would request
the organisers to devise
ways where more teams can
qualify. This, of course, is not
to detract from the pre-



11th Question: in Indian history, what is the significance of the names of Lt Bogg and Sgt Mej. Huson? (Nilesh Bhattacharya, C/o S.N. Bhattacharya, VIII. Nabagram, P.O. Agarpara, 24 Parganas, Pin: 743177)

Ans: On March 29, 1857 Mongal Pandey, the first Sepoy who became insurgent against the British rule in India, wounded Bogg with a sword and shot the other, thus paving the way for the Sepoy Mutiny.



A 'fisherman' on show at the Officer's Choice guiz

preliminary rounds which were equally interesting, though written.

"Even some of my experienced friends in quizzing were quite delighted at the innovations introduced. The live round bears special mention: a man carrying a fish, popping a champagne bottle on stage, model in sarees and the highlight—teams being asked to identify fireworks which were set off. I'd never imagine quizzing could be taken to such high levels of showbiz and glitter. That is why I suppose Calcutta is known as the 'quizzing capital of India'.

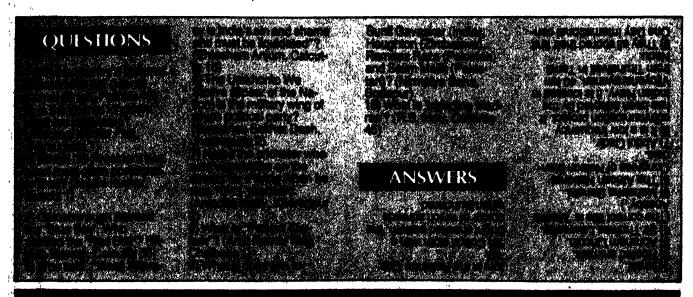
'quizzing capital of India'.
"In which other city would you find office executives who were clued up on every-

thing from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to who was the first indian Test cricketer to be kissed on a ground? (Ans: Abbas Ali Baig). They even knew what a champagne-beer cocktail was called (Biack Velvet) and that Govinda was called 'the poor man's Mithun Chakraborty'.

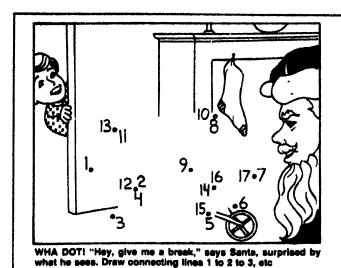
"After a long session of almost five hours of quizzing, eight teams made it to the final. A motley crew: Ananda Bazar, Statesman and Sportsworld represented the journalist brigade; two ad agencies qualified, Sista's and Clarton. The other three finalists were Tata Tea, SAIL and Lovelock and Lewes.

"The QM's prediction that 'Statesman are the firm favourites to win' turned out to be way off the mark (they finished seventh). The Sista's quartet, inspired by lan Zachariah, won the first Officer's Choice quiz and with it the grand prize—four return tickets to Bangkok. Ananda Bazar were a distant second and Clarion third. The prizes were distributed by Mr Jolly Bhargava while Mr Dilip Batra of Cruick-shank handed out the audience prizes.

"As I mentioned earlier, this was the first Calcutta quiz I attended. And if all quizzes in this city are like this (I'm told, in fact, they are) then I've just been bitten—by the Quiz Bug."



INIOR VISIRE PLYALES AND IN



 MURKY MATH! If you add one-quarter to one-third of this number you will have 10 more than one-half the number. What number is that?

Vinew bin berbruit and



SURE THING DRAWING!

There are four pairs of gray socks four pairs of blue socks and four pairs of brown socks in a bureau drawer. That is to say they are not arranged in matching sock pairs.

Now then the room is dark and one cannot make out the coloure See if you can state within 30 seconds the smallest number of single socks that must be drawn from the drawer in order to ensure a same colour pair.

a same colour pair

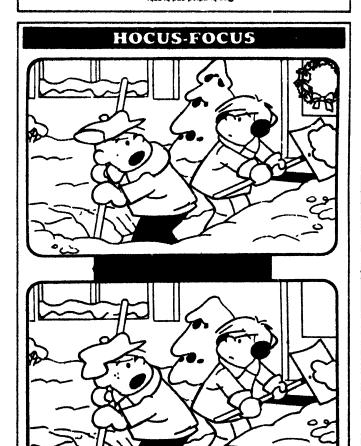
Remember the person drawing the socks wants to be sure they match

Minimum number is four

• KEY NOTE! Santa has made a note of something holiday shoppers do in more ways than one. Can you read Santa's writing? To do so, add and subtract words and letters as indicated—cone minus one plus harp plus cage minus cap—to form one word that sums things up. If necessary, rearrange letters

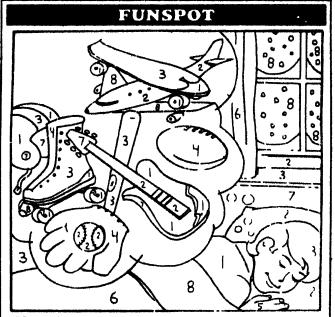
The word is Charge!





CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Est flet le moved 2 Oblist le sineller 3 Trae le ameller 4 Arm le moved 5 Wigelin le mealing 6 Shovellul of enow le ameller



DREAM ON! Will our young friend's dream come true? Who can say? Add these colors: 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt. green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER							
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words SOCIABLE							
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters							
try to score at least 50 points.							

COMICS







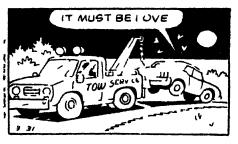














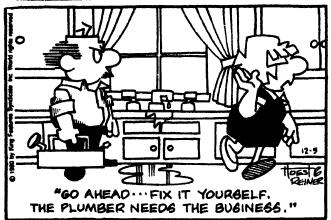


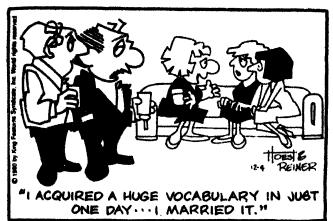








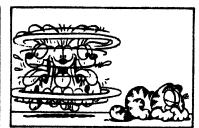


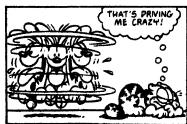




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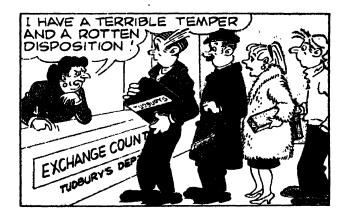
















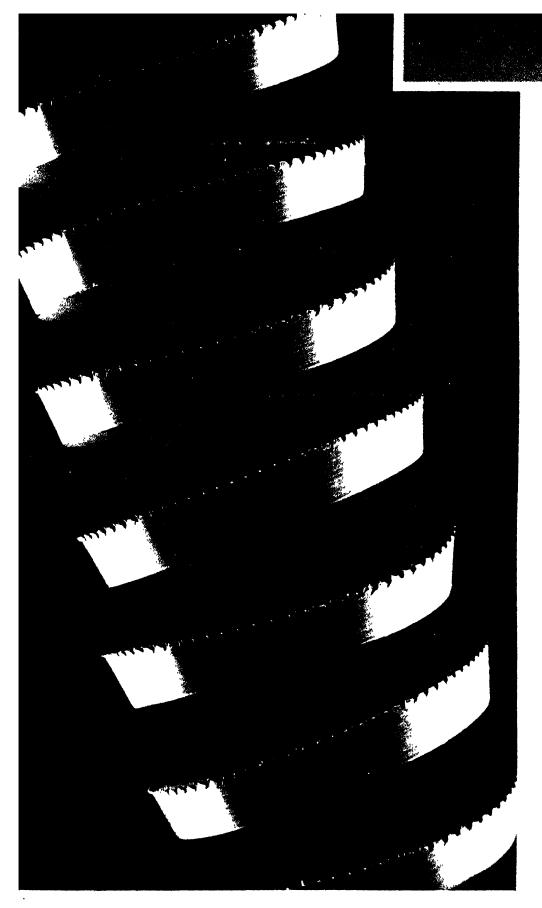


CANDID CAMERA



Our good ol' apple-pie darlin' of the courts is pregnant. Well, **Chrissie**Baby may not have been *the* best of all players, but she's sure gonna make the most smashin' mom of 'em all. And, man, you're lookin' at her now!

Photograph by GAUTAM BHATTACHARYA



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I am in love with my room. The tresh plants. The paintings. I he colours. And the walls. Honey Dew. Magnotia White. Cypress Green. Lavender Spray. Twinkle. Golden Shower. Shades of romance. It was love at first sight. Now it's a lasting affair. With Superlac.









Our Very Own **Brilliant Minds**

Thanks so much for the detailed coverage of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and its scientists (February 17). It made me feel that our beloved motherland is one of the frontrunners in advanced research and technologies.

Public money is not for funding political parties, but for institutions such as these. At the same time, brain drain after so much of investment is the worst thing that can happen.

Abhijit Lahiri,

■ The story was superb. It gave us a chance to know more about the "internationally renowned but publicity-shy" faculty members of the TIFR.

Kallol Basu, Sodepur (W.B.)

■ The TIFR has become the cosy shelter of brilliant minds. The question is how many of us knew this till February 17?

Sandeep Dasgupta Rourkela

Last Hope

Male dominated politics has brought ruin to our country. Our last hope lies in women. Mamata Banerjee ('The Challenge', March 24) is a political prodigy born to fight vandalism and assigned with the task of leading the country out of this total mess.

In neighbouring Bangladesh, Mrs Khaleda Zia has succeeded in bringing back democracy. In Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto brought back democracy. Corazon Aquino liberated the Philippines from the clutches of Marcos.

Mamata Banerjee is destined to release West Bengal from the clutches of the Marxists.

Taj Singh Lakhmna, Patna

■ What courage and determination this Mamata Baneriee has! She promises to be a great source of inspiration for the Indian woman.

The firebrand politician has proved singlehandedly that the strength of political organisations are no consequence for an individual to rise above it and fight alone. No intra-party politics has been able to stop her from going ahead on the thorny path.

Vikash Ranjan Nayak, Cuttack

Shame on Today's Cricketers!

The coverage you gave the oldest living cricketer B.D. Deodhar (February 24), was very touching. One was, at the same time, deeply hurt when reading that the presentday cricketers did not bother to even wish him on his 100th birthday-it only shows them in bad light.

Nilesh Bhattacharya, Agarpara (W.B.)

It was wonderful to read the interview with Prof. Deodhar. How sad that the presentday cricketers did not have the courtesy to felicitate him on his 100th birthday.

Sunii Banerjee,

'T' 6 & L T . . .

Caicutta

■ The piece on Prof. Deodhar was excellent. It was sad to read that personalities from all over the world congratulated him on his 100th birthday, but our own current cricketers perhaps did not have the time to do so. This disgraceful act of omission should make them hang their heads in shame.

They must have been busy making money through their modelling and private columns and what not. Their thinking is, let us play the Deodhar Trophy and get paid for it instead of wasting time on wishing him. At least the Tendulkar family had some respect for the great man and cricketer.

Sandeep Dasgupta, Rourkela

Mamata Banerjee: Charging the atmosphere



CONTENTS

The Telegraph

14 APRIL 1991



Siddhartha Shankar Ray is back at the helm of affairs of the Congress(I) in West Bengal. Already, the effects are showing. Will the ray of hope turn into happy sunshine?

A large number of hitherto unknown cures are being found in the seas. A report.

And now, a boom in video news magazines. Some are good, some bad; but given Doordarshan's lack of enterprise, and the fast-forward to a brave new technological world, they are here to stay.

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Cover: Rajib Basu



With wife Mays



CAN HE to the polls to elect 42 MPs and 294 MLAs, voters will not merely be divided over stability or values or, for that matter, the Ram temple or job quotas. The polarisation is already over

On one side is the CPI(M) the organisation that is now itching to stalk the corridors of power in New Delhi. On the other is the Congress(I) laid low in the state for the last 14 years. The former outfit is represented by the 77 year old chief minister. Jyoti Basu, and the Congress(I), having remained faceless since Basu took over, has got a new profile only recently. Siddhartha, Shankar, Ray (70), state Congress(I) president and former Punjab governor, is the rediscovered face with which the party is going to the polls.

The forthcoming electoral battle has therefore boiled down to a clash between two personalities of the chief minister and his immediate predecessor. It is Jyou babu versus Manu da

Unlike other states where the Emergency did not take its toll on the vote banks of the Congress(I). West Bengal has hardly shown any inclination to condone the party's misdeeds. The results of successive polls have proved that the voters disenchantment with it is omewhat irreparable.

Having remained out of power for 14 long years, the party is now overrun with problems. No wonder its bosses in Delhi are always on the lookout for saviours. The mantle has fallen on many and Ajit Panja. Pranab Mukherjee. Priya Ranjan Das Munshi ind Abu Barkat Ataul Chani Khan Choudhury have ill tried their hand in improving the performance of the Congress(I) at the hustings. Without much success though

And now the party high comm nd has requisitioned the talent of 5.5. Ray to achieve what the previous state Congress(I) chiefs have failed to But can the new PCC(I) chief do it?

By making Ray the state Congress(I) president on the Eve of the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls the party president Rapiv Gandhi has picked up the gauntlet. As the news of the change of guard got round political observers initially were sceptical too much risk was involved in imposing a new leader on the beleagured generals of the party in West Bengal. But the removal of Ghani Khan Choudhury as the PCC(I) president proved that his boss was not afraid of gambling.

Ray's appointment as the PCC(I) chief is the third recent instance of Rajiv Gandhi's preference for a change. He had earlier replaced Prodyut Guha, the plodding state Youth Congress(I) president by Mamata Banerjee, the most aggressive of all party leaders in the state right now. Then the Chhatra Parishad(I) the organisation that



Standing up to be counted

Slowly, but firmly,
Siddhartha Shankar Ray

has climbed back to the top rung of the

Congress(I) in West
Bengal. And already, the
Left Front has swung into
nervous action by trying

to brand him as public enemy number one. That itself answers part of the question, say PATHIK GUHA and PRANAY SHARMA

remained headless for years on end got its new chief in Tapas Roy former party councillor and upcoming youth leader And then Ray

The new berth also marks a definite twist in Ray's career graph for with it he is back in the fold with a bang. His rise to prominence with notoriety attached to it, was complete in the Emergency days when, ruling West Bengal as a medieval monarch, he also came close to Indira.

Gandhi It wishe who initiated many rus chievou tricks of hers—the drafting of the I mergency declaration and the Bill (extending the life of Parlament from five to six years) to name a couple

Thanks to the emergence of Sinjay Gandhi as the uncrowned monarch of India Ray found himself in the lurch. The post Emergency period saw him going into hibernation as he positioned himself igainst Indira Gandhi. Out of that dejection was born the Congress(S) and he made some unsucce shul attempts to be in command within the break is almost relegated to oblivion. I rom those days of despair to today's limelight is a long journey.

It was 1978 Siddhartha Shankar Ray along with his wife. Maya, was on his way to Jodhpur in connection with a court case The Congress party had split a few month earher. One group was being led by Indira Gandhi the other by Brahmananda Reddy Ray had decided to throw in his let with Reddy Suddenly the couple saw the commander of the aircraft coming out of the cockpit and walking towards them. It took them some time before they realised that the gentleman in the flier's uniform wis none other than Rijiv Gandhi. After i few minutes of polite conversation. Rajix left but Ray did not have the slightest inkling that in a few years time the Indian Airlines pilot would play a major role in his life

Despite his attempts. Ray could not return to mainstream politics is long as Indira Gandhi was alive. In the 1984 Lok Sabha election he tried to get a nomination

from the Congress(I) for the Darjeeling seat. But he was denied. He decided to contest the election as an Independent candidate, but his endeavour failed. Though he managed to poll over 80,000 v.otes, he was defeated in a triangular contest.

However, a few months later things started changing for Ray. Interestingly, unlike the other leaders from West Bengal, like Pranab Mukherjee or Ghani Khan Choudhury, who were known Indira loyalists and were sidelined after her death. Ray started staging a comeback only after Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister. In April 1985, he was asked to campaign for the party's nominees in the Calcutta Municipal Corporation election. A few months later he was fielded by the party in the byelection for the Bolpur Lok Sabha seat against the CPI(M) stalwart. Somnath Chatterjee. But, once again, he was defeated.

A year later, Ray, who had returned to Calcutta after a court case in Allahabad, received a phone call from Rajiv Gandhi asking him to come and see him immediately. The next day he met the Prime Minister and was offered the Punjab governorship. "It is really interesting," recalls Ray, "that the day I was supposed to go to Chandigarh in connection with a court case, I was appointed the governor of Punjab."

No one knows who really recommended his name for the governorship of Punjab. But his past record, controversial though, in tackling the Naxalite movement in Bengal, had definitely won him the posting to tackle the militants in that state. It was a new beginning in Ray's political career. Though there are many politicalns who feel that he failed to bring about any improvement either in the political scenario or in the law and order situation in the state, the Prime Minister was impressed.

His gubernatorial appointment also gave him the chance to meet the PM frequently and discuss with him other important political developments in the country. "We spent many hours together in those days and that was the time when I got to know Rajiv Gandhi closely," says Ray. Not only was he impressed by the young PM's capability to work for long hours, but his ability to make quick decisions on important political issues also left a mark on him.

Citing an example to drive his point home, Ray takes out a map of the Golden Temple complex and points how Rajiv Gandhi spent the entire night discussing the do's and don ts during Operation Black Thunder in May 1988.

Even while he was in Punjab, Ray kept in constant touch with the Congress(I) leaders and other people in West Bengal. But despite his keenness to return to the



Maintaining a balance between feuding factions

political field in his home state, he had to stay content in Punjab.

In 1989, after the V.P. Singh government came to power, Ray knew his days in Punjab were numbered. And right enough, one of the first things that the new government did was to have him replaced by Nirmal Mukherjee.

In 1990 he returned to West Bengal. But soon found that though a section of his partymen were in favour of his return, there were others, particularly the supporters of the then PCC(I) chief. Ghani Khan Choudhury, who tried to oppose his re-entry into state politics. After a brief tour of rural Bengal, when he tried to create a mass opinion against the Marxist rule, Ray withdrew from the political scene.

But other important leaders of the party from West Bengal, like Pranab Mukherjee, Ajit Panja and Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, were now growing impatient with the present PCC(I) leadership and started lobbying with the high command for a change in the state unit's leadership. Despite this Rajiv Gandhi was not too keen on bringing

about a change for two reasons.

First, he was still hopeful of the Leftists' support at the national level and did not attach too much importance to the party's organisation in West Bengal. Secondly, Ghani Khan Choudhury was the only leader from the minority community who was a PCC(I) chief.

However, things changed drastically once the Leftists clarified their position after the fall of the Chandra Shekhar government in March this year. A few days earlier, Mahabir Prasad, the AICC general secretary in charge of West Bengal, was replaced by Rajendra Kumari Bajpai.

On her return from the state she suggested that the state unit could be rejuvenated if either Pranab Mukherjee or Siddhartha Shankar Ray were made the PCC(I) chief. Even then Rajiv Gandhi hesitated. Supporters of Ghani Khan Choudhury tried to convince the high command that a change at this time could be suicidal for the party.

The state government's decision to hold the Assembly elections simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls, however, made



Rajiv change his mind. Ray, who was in Singapore at that time, was asked to come to the capital immediately by the AICC president. Once he arrived in New Delhi, Rajiv Gandhi offered him the presidentship of West Bengal PCC(I).

Asked why he decided to accept the post since he had categorically denied his interest in it only a few days earlier, Ray replied, "It is a bad trait in me that I like to accept a challenge." He adds, "I'm not promising anyone the moon, but I wish to put up a strong fight against the Marxists in West Bengal.

Ray is now considered one of the closest politicians from West Bengal to Rajiv Gandhi. The state Youth Congress(I) president, Mamata Banerjee, describes him as a "heavyweight" who just has to pick up the telephone to reach the AICC president. Other leaders of the state, Pranab Mukherjee or Ajit Panja, all agree to this and feel he is the only leader in the party in West Bengal under whose leadership the Congress(I) could give a decent fight to the Left Front.

nowever, many are sceptical about his seriousness to return to state politics. "How long will he spend in the state once the Congress(I) loses in the coming elections?" they ask. But there are many others who feel that he has come to stay for good. If not in state politics, then perhaps at the Centre.

Ray himself describes his relations with Rajiv as extremely good. "We understand each other quite well. He is a modern man with scientific and progressive ideas. In fact, I like him more than Indira Gandhi. He has some very precious human qualities."

Ray is reported to have told Rajiv once that he was really bothered about the stigma attached to him for his stand against Indira Gandhi in the late Seventies. Perhaps his decision to return to politics and help Rajiv Gandhi in coming back to power is his way of correcting his political record.

Rajiv's decision to make Ray the PCC(I) chief must have been prompted by his eagerness to cash in on the latter's image. True, the state Congress(I) was badly in need of a personality to take on someone with the stature of Jyoti Basu. Except Ghani Khan Choudhury, the other party leader who comes close to that level of political standing is Pranab Mukherjee. Kay was not only the state chief minister during the troubled years of 1972-77, he also has an impressive lineage. The grandson of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das (Ray's mother was Aparna Devi, Deshbandhu's elder daughter), he is a barrister of repute.

Interestingly, the asset of his image that the AICC(I) president is banking on may turn out to be Ray's biggest liability, too. He may be a doer-sort of troubleshooter-to many, but in his case the image cuts both ways. It was during his stewardship that West Bengal witnessed an unprecedented scale of police repression and brutality. Law and order was merely an euphemism for the reign of terror let loose by his cronies within the administration as well as the organisation. With his blessings grew up a special band of mastaans-turned-youth leaders who indulged in an orgy of violence to combat leftism of any sort in this state. His henchmen in the police administration organised nocturnal "encounters" to get rid of Naxa-lite youths locked up in jails. The coldblooded murders of college-going boys who were out to annihilate the establishment were preserved on celluloid by Utpalendu Chakraborty in his first film, Moina Tadanta (Post Mortem). To add to the dramatic element, the director (who

S.S. Ray and Mamata Baner jee providing the healing touch



THE BETTER HALF

had a stint in Naxalism himself) had a shot where the chief minister (Ray himself on the sereen) was coolly watching horse racing while the streets were being stained with the blood of youths

The Naxahtes still view Ray as the ultimate devil. That is why they organised street corner meetings with whatever little might they could muster at Bolpur when Ray contested the Lok Sabha byelection there in 1985. They also sent contingents to Punjab to organise rallies as soon as Ray's name was announced as the governor of the trouble torn state in 1986. And they have become active again organising profest rallies and distributing leaf lets to condemn his comeback.

But nothing could match the virulence of the attacks unleashed by the ruling CPI(M) in the past few weeks. It (Ray's appointment as PCC I chief) indicates the mess that the Congress(I) is now

n March 23, 1991, when Siddharthe Shankar Ray was supposed to come to the city amid rousing receptions for his being made the PCC(I) chief, one person waiting patiently at the party office at Haji Mohammed Mohsin Square for the leader was Suniti Chattara, a member of the Ray cabinet during 1972-77 and former party MLA from Sun There was a stam pede inside the PCC(I) president's chamber as soon as Ray entered, josting his way through its gate But Chattaraj elbowed out others to embrace Ray Before others could push him aside, he fished out a writing pad and hurriedly scribbled a few words on it The pad, fresh from the press, had Ray's name embossed on it as the PCC(I) president. As inquisitive newsmen peeped over all those who encircled Ray to see what Chattara; had written, they found an interesting sentence "Boudike aamaar pranam deben (Please give my regards to your wife) "

"You had better ask me about that," she shot back, "Why are you asking Manu? Let me make it clear that I am not contesting any election this time."

Maya Ray was elected a Congress MP in the 1972 byelection for the Raiganu) seat which fell vacant that year. It was rumoured that Indua Gandhi, who was charmed by Maya Ray, wanted her to be a Member of Parhament Would Rany Gandhi have the same desire too? "My health will not permit me too much strain now," she confides "I had to go through a surgecal operation below my right chin and it was done badly I am still paying the price for it. I cannot speak for long at a stretch Then there were the years in Punjab. You know the problems there Manu maisted on visiting all the spots that were witnessing extremist killings. Those were far-flung villages and he would rush to those places, often m seeps. How could I stay back when he was risking his life? I used to accompany him wherever he went Those long rides have taken their toll on me "...

She used to repose her faith on Goddess Kah for "protecting Manu" from all odds during those days and she has not given up the practice. The first thing she does in the morning is to spend "at least an hour" worshipping the goddess of power "Manu's family worships Lord Krishna, but we are devotees of the Mother," she observes Any discussion of her handsome husband can keep her engrossed for hours together. Her memories are still as fresh as ever about those days in London when "Manu came to our house within a few days of our first meet at a musical and told my father that he wanted to marry me" Her father, Dr Kiran Chandra Bhattacharya, was impressed by the suitor of his 17-year-old daughter who was still a student of the London School of Medicine

Is not the chair of the WBPCC(I) more comfortable than that of the Punjab governor? "Oh, no," she objects, the officers are there to do everything for the governor But for a PCC(I) chief in a state like West Bengal? Please do not ask me to comment Concerned at the responsibility, she wanted to lend a helping hand to her husband in Calcutta "There were hundreds of people who wanted to meet him and talk separately," she says. "everyone wanted a ticket I first started keeping a dossier so that they could meet him one after the other. just in the order that they came After all, they were coming all the way from villages. I am sorry, I could not maintain the order People came and stepped sito his room as and when they wanted to. Even my peevishness for discipline was ridiculed. I was told that it was not very welcome in our organization. union. Maybe, they were right. I



The goddess of power Maya Ray bowing before Kalı

embroiled in, said Jyoti Basu while reacting to the news from Dellu. The people of this state know him too well to be duped again. He was in the Congress. Then he quit. Only to join it again and to become a sycophant of India i Gandhi. Then he quit again. And started hurling all sorts of charges against her. He rejoined the Congress(I) at the end of a long spell during which he was nowhere. Now he has been made a leader again by a decree in the dead of night.

On March 23 even before Ray landed at the Dum Dum airport amidst a rousing reception by Congress(I) supporters CPI(M) workers were organising ral lies to decry his return to West Bengal politics. Blaring microphones lined the streets through which Rays moforcade

One does not need to see her at work to appreciate the importance of being Maya Ray (64), the high-profile wife of Ray All those who came close to the former chief minister during his heydey in the Seventies-partyworkers, bureaucrats and newsmenstill recollect with contempt her highhandedness. She was more than an aide to her barrister-politician husband Critics used to believe that she poked her nose too much into the affairs of her flamboyant husband, often deciding who deserved to be his friends or foes That is why the news of Ray's new assignment evoked suspicion among the party leaders here. Was the Boudi too staging a comeback along with Manu da?

She dispelled the suspicion in her own style. The newsmen who were posling queries about this to Ray at his first prese conference at the city heard a tense voice from behind the row of chairs at the Rays' sprawling lawn.

was to wend its way to the PCC(I) office at Haji Mohammad Mohsin Square. The CPI(M) youths were trying to highlight the new president's track record as the state chief minister during 1972-77.

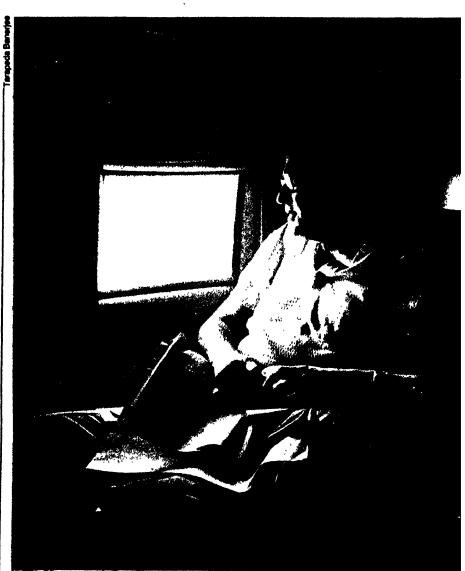
Ganashakti, the CPM mouthpiece, has taken the no-holds-bared tirade to new heights by running a series of interviews of those hapless mothers whose sons were butchered during those harrowing days in order to whip up ugly memories. It is also intended for the new voters lest they miss those gory details for having been born later.

Never before had the party daily been so naked in its aggression against a new PCC(1) chief. Its outlandish journalistic enterprise included publication of a Calcuttadatelined story in its March 30 issue. Headlined, Nilame Siddhartha (Siddhartha on Auction), the report read, "The post of the PCC(I) president was on auction. The industrial groups of the Birlas and the Ambanis joined the bidding. It was learnt from one quarter that the Ambanis told the Congress(I) high command that if the funds for electioneering were disbursed through Pranab Mukehriee, they would donate Rs 5 crore to the party funds. The Birlas promised Rs 6 crore if Ray was made the PCC(I) chief. The AICC(I) president, Rajiv Gandhi, was in a fix. Finally, four days later, he initialled the appointment letter of Ray."

Ganashakti's penchant for anything anti-Siddhartha was also evident in its publication of lengthy extracts from Siddharthashankar: Siddhi O Nirvan (The Enlightenment and Nirvana of Siddharthashankar). The work, authored by an investigative journalist of the Anandabazar Patrika. is replete with spicy details of the escapades of Ray during his heyday, including his blueprint to rig the 1972 Assembly election in the state. The absolute mockery of the electoral process enacted on his diktat saw Jyoti Basu losing the Baranagar seat by 40,000 votes. The countings saw the strength of Basu's party reduced to barely 14 MLAs—an all-time low in the state Assembly and the leftists chose to boycott the House

No wonder the publication was a smashing hit during the fateful days of August 1977. The publishers had to go for eight reprints within three months of its release on the stands. While that credit goes to the tenacious journalist, Ganashaktis excerpts were not out of any respect for the journalist's calibre. Indeed, it was aimed at achieving an end by any means possible. How else can the CPI(M)'s mouthpiece go ga-ga over a publication by a journalist from the Anandabazar Patrika, the daily that is the butt of all attacks by the party leaders at all meetings?

The CPI(M)'s all-out campaign against



A file picture of 1974: When there was some light, some darkness

Ray has raised many eyebrows. But the party is determined to continue it with full vigour. Says Sailen Dasgupta, state party secretary and Left Front chairman, "What is wrong in it? We think the people need to be reminded of all his misdeeds in great detail. He has done so much harm to the state singlehandedly." Ashok Ghosh, state secretary of the Forward Bloc, is even more aggressive. "I think a harsher campaign is needed," he observes. "We consider him to be a jallad (executioner). It was he who organised wanton killings of youths and political leaders in West Bengal, he who unleashed a Mafia Rai here. It is a disgrace to have him as the chief of any party in this state, he it the Congress(I) or any other organisation. I am amazed at the rashness of Rajiv Gandhi to impose him as the PCC(I) chief. Has he gauged the feelings of the Muslims in this state after he dropped Ghani Khan Choudhury from the

post? After all, who is this grandson of Deshbandhu? Was it not he who epitomised dictatorship in all his deeds? The nation might have got Emergency on June 26, 1975, but thanks to him, we Bengalis went through it while he remained the chief minister."

Going by the rabid reaction of Jyoti Basu and his men, it seems that Rajiv Gandhi has partially achieved what he had in mind. He has scared Basu's party with his first trick. The blast of the CPI(M)'s blitzkrieg on him only goes to build up his image. The ruling CPI(M) may be reading too much into his prowess, generating a feeling among his followers that he is the one who can catch the bullish CPI(M) by its horns in West Bengal.

Ray does face an uphill task. His party's recent track record is dismal. It could return only 49 nominees in the 1982



Consoling the victims of terrorists in village Ratta Khuda, as Punjab governor

Assembly election. The figure came down to 40 in the 1987 polls. Although there were four party MPs after the 1980 Lok Sabha election, the sympathy wave in favour of Rajiv Gandhi could return as many as 16 party candidates in the 1984 general election. The figure was again whittled to a mere four in the 1989 polls.

The party is in such a mess in the state that even a minor improvement in the performance in the forthcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly polls would go to his credit. But the CPI(M) is determined not to let him find it easy. Probably that is why he is keeping a low profile while planning his party's strategy.

He is even extra-reticent about the plethora of allegations made by the CPI(M) against him. "I do not read yellow junk." he told us when asked to comment on the Ganashakti story on his being a protege of the Birlas. "My only association with the industrialists is when they brief me after paying my fees," he says. "I am not answerable to any client for my polibeen so, I could not have tics. Had it been a party to coal or bank nationalisation. My entire public career since 1956 is an open book. I am the last surviving member of B.C. Roy's cabinet. Prafulla Chandra Sen, another member of that cabinet, died only last year. Sometimes, specially when I am alone, I think it is now my turn. So, please do not expect me to be bothered by all that crap.

Shrewd as he is, he has taken the personal attacks against him by the

CPI(M) leaders in his stride. "Please allow me my share of silence," he comments. "I know far too many things about Jyoti Basu and company. I advise them not to force me to spill the beans. Will it be nice if I divulge how from this very bad man they had sought and got favours?" (His dig is too obvious. Everybody knows that Chandan Basu, the chief minister's son, who flunked in many an examination, got admission at a medical college in Kashmir, courtesy his counselling with the former J&K chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah.)

Incidentally, Ray has as many critics within his own organisation as he has in the CPI(M). That is why he was going out of his way to erase the differences plaguing the party. He rightly assesses the mood of the Congress(I) supporters in West Bengal when he says, "Their first and foremost demand is that we act unitedly. We should first honour their wishes."

It is with this low profile that he is bringing many factions closer. Priya Ranjan Das Munshi who, during his tenure as the PCC(I) chief in 1987, had to witness the Congress(I)'s strength in the state Assembly slashed down to 40, feels that Ray's taking over as the PCC(I) president has improved the party's prospects at the hustings. "Manu dds image will definitely count," he observes. "In 1987, we did not have any leader to project as Jyoti Basu's alternative. We have that in Manu da now." Somen Mitra, PCC(I) general secretary in Ray's committee and a follower of the

former PCC(I) chief, Ghani Khan Choudhury, adds, "Let the CPI(M) keep on its tirade against Manu da. The people of West Bengal know that after all he is not corrupt. Can our CPI(M) friends vouchsafe that for the father of Chandan Basu? Ganashakti may not like what I say, but it is a fact that the people of this state are now doubting the integrity of our very revered chief minister."

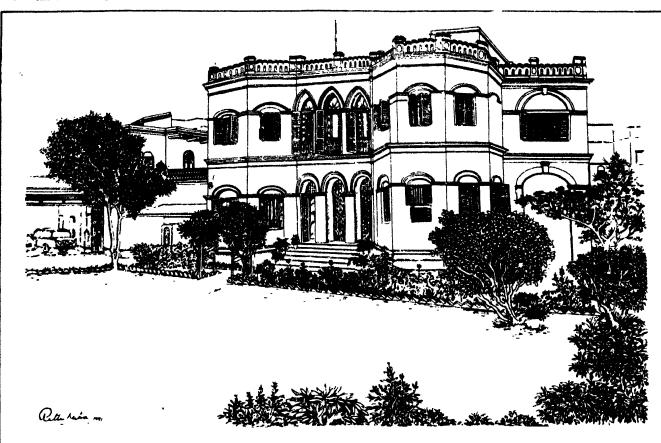
It is perhaps naive to believe that only a ray of hope is enough to see the party through in the election in West Bengal. Standing against each dream of the Congress(I) is the organisational might of the CPI(M). It is those nominees of the party ranged against the heavyweights of the CPI(M) who will realise that image and rhetorics are too weak ammunition to take on the CPI(M), specially in the villages.

Abdul Mannan, president of the state Seva Dal, spoke his mind while trying hard to change the Assembly constituency from where he would like to contest this time. "It is very difficult for our urban leaders to imagine the kind of rigging resorted to by the CPI(M)," he told us. He contested the Arambagh seat in Hooghly and was defeated by about 13,000 votes by the CPI(M).

"We will produce surprising results if the CPI(M) allows the elections to be free and fair here," says Ray, without specifying what the surprise would be like. Perhaps he feels that the CPI(M) will not spring the surprise (rigging) that he expects.



BELTOLA HOUSE



The Beltola House (situated at 2. Beltola Road in the Bhowanipore area of south Calcutta) is owned by the former West Bengal chief minister and Punjab governor and present PCC(I) chief and well-known barrister, Siddhartha Shankar Ray. This red-bricked building (whose construction began in 1908-09 and was completed in 1910-11) was originally owned by the late barrister Sir Asoka Roy, however, spent only a couple of years in this house. Subsequently it was occupied by barrister Sudhir Ray, father of Siddhartha Shankar Ray, as a tenant of Roy. Sudhir Ray married Aparna Devi, elder daughter of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das who was then a prominent figure at the Calcutta Bar. Since then the Beltola House has been continuously occupied by the Ray family. Siddhartha Shankar purchased this house

about 30 years ago and since then has been using it as his residence-cum-chamber.

The Beltola House is significant, both historically and politically. During the 1920s when C.R. Das gave up his practice and joined the nationalist movement, this house was visited by luminaries like Vijayaraghavacharyya, Satyamurthi, the Ali Brothers, Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kamala Nehru, Sarojini Naidu and Lala Lajpat Rai. After donating his ancestral house at 144 Russa Road, C.R. Das stayed here for a few days. Even after his death it continued to be a place where Congress leaders held important and confidential meetings. It was here that Basanti Devi (wife of the Deshbandhu) played the role of a mediator between Subhas Bose and J.M. Sengupta. Others who frequented this house in those days included H.S. Suhrawardy, Kiron Shankar Ray, Sarat Bose, Dr B.C. Roy, Nirmal Chandra Chunder, Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, Fazlul Haque, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Akram Khan and Rev. B.A. Nag. The Beltola House also granted shelter to freedom fighters and revolutionaries during the Independence Movement.

In 1925, Mahatma Gandhi came here in connection with the creation of a trust for 144 Russa Road. He also stayed here in 1932 during the Harijan Movement and addressed a large gathering on the lawns from the first-floor verandah. After Independence, it continued to be a meeting place for political leaders like Dr B.C. Roy, P.C. Sen, Bhupesh Gupta, Muzaffar Ahmed, Syed Baddraduja, Hemanta Basu, Dr P.C. Ghose, Dr Suresh

Banerjee, Subodh Banerjee, Dr Kanai Bhattacharya, Jatin Chakraborty and Jyoti Basu.

During the days of Sudhir Ray, literary personalities like Sunit Chattopadhyay, Dinesh Sen, Tarashankar Bandopadhyay, Girija Shankar Roy Choudhury, Sajani Kanta Das and Dr Khagen Mitter were regular visitors. Besides, Vaishnav scholars and even Uday Shankar frequented this place. Once during the 1930s, Rukmini Devi Arundale danced in the first-floor hall to the accompaniment of Aparna Devi's Raasleela songs and Nabadwip Brijadasi's khol.

Although over 90 years old, the Beltala House, comprising over 20 rooms and outhouses, is in a fairly good shape despite being built, as customary in those days, only with lime, sand and surki, with no cement at all.

RIES

March 21 April 20 Expenses trips, ties, secret connections

and collaborations are the main trends of the week. Your loved ones may suffer from ill-health In romance an old flame is rekındled Prepare for major investments Mid-week will be the best time to stake your claims There may be minor financial losses on prior speculation

AURUS April 21 May 20 The main trends of the week are recovery, reunion, visits and giving gifts Legal settlements may go in your favour in romance, the apple of your eye returns from abroad An old friendship grows into something more Regarding finance, those involved in legal tangles may be happily rewarded with a monetary settlement There may be news of increments or bonus



May 21 June 20 There may be confrontations on the

work frontier Expenses eat into your income Travel may need some planning Romance prom-ises steady going with no par ticular ups and downs in finance help your fate by working in a positive and purposeful direction Business associates, financial partners or your boss may be in a mood to fire you



The week will be hec-

tic with hard work contacts, contracts, documents and investments all combined in romance, men will find acceptance from the opposite sex, but more luck is in store for the ladies Finance promises good returns and lucrative contracts Those in sales enjoy increased profits Regarding health look after gums teeth and feet infec-

E0

tions

July 21 August 21

Marital relationships. travel job satisfaction and research characterise the week Some soul searching will be inevitable as there may be a heated conflict with your spouse The eligible find the mid week lucky for interesting meetings Do not be hasty regarding financial matters. There may be a slight danger of accidents for

drivers, cyclists or machine oper-



















IRGO

August 22 Sept 22 The week promises awards, ceremonies and travel in romance a native

of a distant land attracts your fancy A lasting friendship and perhaps marriage is the likely re sult The purchase of gifts and clothing will cut into your resources but you will not regret it as you are in for a happy round of activity Regarding health, you will be fit as a fiddle



IBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22 Success in enterprise

and romance is des tined Also it is travel time Ex penses go up as visitors lovers and friends drop in Money will be showered upon you Health will improve as will your tem per The home front is complete ly activated Property transac tions and painting the house are likely Cultivate a new hobby and take time off to relax

BIRTHDAYS

April 14

The new moon helps you to take important decisions Plan well ahead for any eventuality and success will be certain Hassles with superiors are possible A job switch is also on the cards

April 15

Moon sextile Mars Buying, sell-ing, purchasing, shopping and entertaining form the pentagon for you. The impact on home, property and the domestic scene will be most pronounced There is a danger of falling out with those who really matter and that could hurt. A little guile is necessary

April 16

Venus sextlie Jupiter This sextile assures you of wealth, jour-ney, children, hobby and perhaps apeculation But the last mentioned is always risky Your communication akilis will stand you in good stead.

April 17

Moon-Verbis conjunction: Eccel-ient for entitie, chemists, orga-nietts, tempera, writers and those dealing directly with peo-ple. Childbirth, romance and

films will take up your time. This is a birthyear to step out in style and make the most of your good fortune

April 18

Moon sextile Mercury As Mercury signifies travel, contracts, news, views, communication and trading, these aspects will naturally have an added significance Journey, ceremony, publicity and happy events complete the picture. Trust in God and faith in yourself should do the

April 19

Moon sextile Sun Sports, pastime, romance and high adventure fall in the orbit of this sextile You will move fast, win a prize and be accepted by those who count This is a birthyear to feel secure Make your presence felt and start afresh

April 20

Moon opposition Uranus Neptune lil-health and family problems could take up your time and energy But that is not the whole story. As the moon also trines Pluto, leaks and tunds will be available and this in turn means that investments will be made Changes on the work and home fronts are certain



CORPIO

Oct 23---Nov 22 Stormy romantic scenes, impulsive de-

cisions and mounting expenses dominate the week in romance, although your intentions may be good your actions towards the sweetheart of a friend may be wrongly interpreted Prepare for a lot of explaining Regarding financial matters, look before you leap A shift of residence or acquisition of property increases expenses. Health will not pose any senous problems



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23--- Dec 20

A week of hectic but happy activity There will be business expansions and project launching in finance, approach those who are in a position to help you Also play close attention to outstation de-

velopments in your business Elderly people should take care of their health Problems of a cardiovascular or pulmonary nature may occur



APRICORN

Dec 21 -Jan 19

The week promises progress, negotiations trips and ties and also immigration Romance involves marriage proposals or an engagement for the eligible A romantic involvement with a foreigner is likely Money is well spent Any delay will prove costly Do not keep things unattended Knees and the stomach may pose problems Travel is foretold Expect some opposition on the home front



QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

The main trends of the week are unexpected visitors sudden travel,

entertainment and a shift of residence in romance, a young individual impresses you causing relatives and friends to raise their eyebrows Allergies and eye infections may pester you for a week There may be a new arrival in the family



ISCES

Feb 19--- March 20

Loans, funds, deeds

and property consti-tute the week Regarding romance an outing or a picnic will clinch the deal The unforgettable aroma of her perfume distracts you in finance you are approached for a sizeable loan. Health remains fine The home front is favourably signified Children give you joy

ators

The Sea and Sickness

The great waters now seem to have a secret in their bosom that could turn out to be a boon for medical science. **Donald Smith** on the possible cures that the sea offers, including perhaps something for AIDS manumeration.

Tottering on the edge of a dock, biochemist Douglas Prasher dips a net into Vineyard Sound and scoops up an oozing mass of jellyfish. He gingerly nudges the blob, which is slightly smelly and looks like several spoonfuls of clear Jell-O.

"The uniqueness of this organism is very important to me," Prasher says. "The ocean provides completely different kinds of animals to work with."

Back in his lab at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Prasher cuts off the outer ring of tentacles and places the jellyfish in a large freezer. Stored at minus 158 Fahrenheit, the small, doughnut-shaped chunk of organic ice will wait to be defrosted, ground into mush and launched in the war against human suffering.

The ocean is yielding an increasing number of previously unknown chemical compounds manufactured by animals such as jellyfish. Scientists hope that one day these substances may cure cancer; lung diseases, including asthma and

emphysema; and inflammatory ailments such as arthritis and psoriasis. Some even hold out hope that an AIDS immunisation will emerge from the sea.

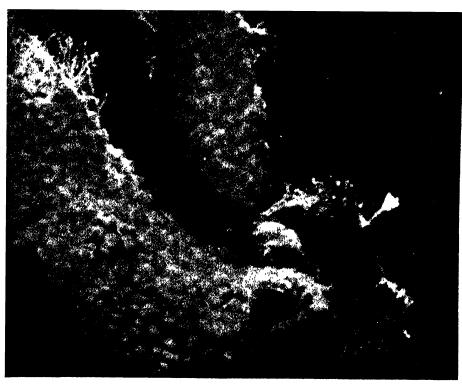
"About half of all drugs known today are derived from plants or animals, including quinine, quinidine, digitalis, cortisone—even aspirin, which comes from tree bark," says pharmacologist Robert Jacobs of the University of California at Santa Barbara. "But over the past 200 years we've not been able to study marine organisms systematically, the way we've studied terrestrial organisms. Now we have the technology to do it."

The blood of horseshoe crabs has long been used in testing for the presence of disease in human cells. A number of drugs based on compounds found in marine animals already are available in pharmacies, including the anti-cancer agent cytarabine and the anti-viral agent vidarabine. Both were derived from sponges.

Acyclovir, created from compounds found in Caribbean Sea creatures, has

Tunicates, so named because their outer coverings resemble tunics, have been found to contain chemical compounds that destroy cancer cells. The chemicals' primary job is protecting the animals from predator fish





Keeping a careful distance, a young Florida vacationer observes the mating rituals of two horseshoe crabs. The royal blue blood of these curious-looking invertebrates has long been used in laboratories to test for disease in human tissue

been used since 1982 to treat genital herpes and encephalitis.

Testing of a promising anti-cancer drug called didemnin B in cancer patients at about 20 clinics is now nearly complete. Developed from tunicates—commonly called sea squirts—didemnin B also has proved useful against herpes, equine encephalitis and yellow fever. By suppressing the body's immune system it could help counter organ rejection after transplants.

The tunicate-derived compound ecteinascidin, whose toxicity in animals is now under study, is also being considered as a cancer treatment.

"We have here two classes of compounds that look very promising as antitumour agents," says Kenneth L. Rinehart, a chemist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who has been working with tunicates since 1978. "What's exciting is that they're quite different from any others currently in use, both in the way they work and the chemical entities they provide."

Also headed for the market is manoalide, a compound found in a rare sponge discovered in the South Pacific by D. John Faulkner of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Manoalide blocks release of enzymes that cause pain and inflammation and thus may be used to treat arthritis and muscular dystrophy.

A group of compounds called pseudoptersoins, developed from the sea whip—a type of soft coral—has proved successful in animal experiments and is being readied for human testing. Discovered by Robert Jacobs and by William Fenical of the University of California at San Diego, the compounds are more powerful painkillers than morphine but appear to be non-toxic and non-addictive. They also show prom-

of ise against various kinds of organ inflammation, including that suffered by cancer patients undergoing radiation treatment.

Scientists reason that many sea creatures—especially soft-bodied animals such as tunicates and sponges—contain chemical structures not found on land because of the way they evolved defenses against predators.

Unable to move about and lacking hard shells or weapons, such as claws or teeth, these animals evolved chemical compounds that repel or kill predatory fish. These same compounds are being found to have useful pharmaceutical properties, such as killing cancer cells in test tubes.

The use of recombinant DNA and organic-chemistry technology allows scientists to re-create and refine the structures they find in marine animals without depleting the animal populations themselves.

"We've actually mapped the structure of several thousand molecules," Jacobs says "and a very significant number of them represent new chemistry, structures that have never been seen before."

After only about two decades of development the relatively new field of marine bio-organic chemistry and pharmacology has been growing quickly in recent years. Japan has launched major efforts to develop marine resources for medicine as well as food.

In the United States the National Cancer Institute, the National Science Foundation and the National Sea Grant College Program have been awarding study grants. All major US pharmaceutical companies have initiated projects aimed at testing promising compounds and bringing successful ones to the market.

At a meeting in Chicago last October a Sea Grant College Program committee proposed a "national strategic research initiative" that would allocate \$1.5 million a year for six years to support more research and postdoctoral fellowships in the field.

As in the threatened South American rain forest, where scientists are regularly finding new chemical compounds, potential medical miracles from the ocean are in danger of being lost forever due to pollution, according to the Sea Grant Program committee.

The ocean's "unique marine resources are rapidly declining because of the changes caused by human activities, which are modifying coastal waters and in some cases destroying the reef habitats that harbour the greatest diversity of marine organisms," the report states.

"Extinction—the death of birth—is reinoving these chemical factories at a much greater rate than they can be explored."

(National Geographic News Service)



Karan Thapar and (inset) Shobhana Bhartia of HTV: Eyeing the market

The video scene is hotting up. Quite literally. No longer is home entertainment synonymous with war and romance flicks from Hollywood or the merry-go-round movies from good old Bombay. Now there is a virtual newsmagazine boom on video, with the omnipresent cassettes trying to shoulder one another out and enter middle class homes to satisfy their lust for information and entertainment.

Be it the horror of Meham, Mandal or Mandir—which Doordarshan would not deem fit to cover—or the magic of Madhuri—which the movie video magazines are already doing to death—the tape unfolds it all. The antics of that ultimate maverick, Subramanian Swamy, is as much grist to the video mill as the deadpan expression of Rajiv Gandhi when reminded of his reputation of being "kaan ka kutcha" (gullible) or Chandra Shekhar flying off the handle when asked about his unkempt appearance even as Prime Minister. The video newsmagazines have it all.

And for those who have no taste for politics, there are special performances of classical maestros or the Grammy awards brought alive—and if that, too, bores them, they can tast-forward to fashion model Feroze Gujral in a tete-a-tete with her fans!

Trying to capture a market of 32 lakh video-owning homes in the country is an evergrowing list of video newsmagazines: Eye Witness, Indiaview, Observer News Channel, Kaalchakra, Business Plus, Poo Malai, Newstrack, and God knows how many more. While Newstrack, belonging to TV Today, a division of Living Media, arrived some two and a half years ago, now every big and small fry in the print inedium has jumped into the fray. Evidently, the lure has been tound to be lucrative and with the technological advance coming in, this new monster is here to stay.

Those who aren't part of the herd yet are planning bigger things: A big newspaper group is trying to get satellite space so that it can begin telecasting programmes from neighbouring shores for Indian

homes to catch with dish antennas.

Whatever led to the creation of the video newsmagazine? Some four years ago even the blind could see that the information revolution was knocking at the doors and the people in India were craving for visual news more and more, but the government remained as unrelenting and indifferent as ever. Doordarshan, the official medium had a brief affair with perestroika during the Rajiv reign, and then returned to its old idiot-box ways. It was a signal for the enterprising Indian media minds to come out with the first newsmagazine on tape in Newstrack. "Doordarshan is the raison d'etre for the video newsmaga-

LIMELIGHT

.zines," says Shashi Kumar of PTI Television, which produces two regional video newsmagazines.

Many more have taken the cue since and, as is usually the case, some of them are good, seme bad and some in-between. But with this mixed quality, they are collectively doing a far better job than Doordarshan in providing information and entertainment in the limited time of 60-90 minutes, mostly per month. Look at Eye Witness brought out by Hindustan Times Television (HTV) or the Dalmia-owned ITV's Indiaview. They try to provide a neat package of varied items in their one-hour show which the normal television channel should be covering in the day.

With Doordarshan's ostrich-like behaviour and the fast-forward to a brave new technological world, the video magazines are here to stay. Seema Paul gives an overview



There are hard news features, some light stuff, an interview with a sports star, a musical show, a small chunk of culture—everything a complete newsmagazine in print would have. Eye Witness, whose inaugural issue is out now, scores with its slickness while Indiaview has pienty of depth. Doordarshan, on the other hand, has none of these qualities even if it flatters to deceive at times.

Politics is Newstrack's speciality. With two and half years behind it, it remains the big daddy in the market. No amount of newprint could have brought home the ghastliness of the violence and boothcapturing as vividly as that powerful footage of Newstrack did.

Newstrack made headlines once again with its controversial coverage of the Mandal violence in the capital. While Doordarshan had ignored the vouth hysteria against the decision to implement the Mandal Commission report, Newstrack went to the other extreme. It took a strong anti-Mandal editorial line and in the process totally ignored the muted voice of thousands of pro-Mandalites in its coverage. But many were thrilled that the medium had at least exposed Doordarshan's pretence that there was nothing wrong or newsworthy happening in Delhi at the time. Net everybody condoned its coverage and its admirers also conceded



Vinod Dua and his ONC team: Room for all

that *Newstrack* had become rather emotional, but better a flawed democracy than no democracy at all!

There are also some specialised video newsmagazines like *Poo Malai* in Tamil and *Chitranjah* in Malayalam which were bound to sell well as both Tamil Nadu and Kerala are states that have a high density of foreign-returned Indians who brought back VCRs and VCPs. There is also Kapil Dev's *Sports Channel* with Tiger Pataudi as presenter which is trying to capture a super elite market rather than merely cater to the interests of genuine sports lovers. For the business community there is *Business Plus* from Times TV, which has

now come out with *People Plus* for the socialites; for Hindi films buffs there are many to choose from with the market, the leader being *Lehren*.

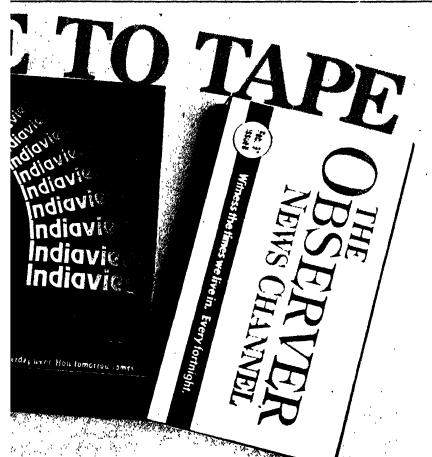
The more the merrier, one might say, but a pertinent question is: Can the market sustain them all? "Yes," says Vinod Dua of *Observer News Channel*. "There's room for all." PTI TV's Shashi Kumar points out that one has to sell only 2,000 copies to recoup the costs of making one issue and any sales over and above that are profits for the company. With nearly 32 lakh homes in the country owning videos, it's really a fraction of the market that each one of the newsmagazines is trying to capture.

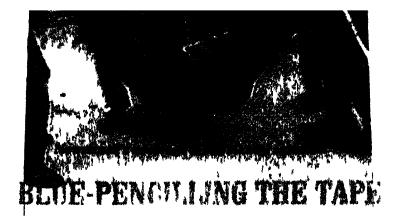
Besides, each magazine has its own strategy for success. While Newstrack seems to be catering to the news-reading executives, ITV's Indiaview is trying to appeal to the entire family by providing something for everybody, and it has a chatty anchor in Deepa Nayyar. Better still, it is backed by a marketing strategy which should give it a headstart over the

While Newstrack believes in only direct subscription, HTV chose to sell through a distributor and Observer News Channel does both, Indianew is one up on them all. Instead of charging anywhere between Rs 100 to Rs 150 for each issue like everybody else, they offer free home delivery every fortnight for six months at a reasonable charge of Rs 90. The subscriber can keep the cassette for 48 hours after which the agent will collect. The affordability and the subscriber not being burdened with a cassette permanently has enlarged its market.

There is something more happening on the video scene that makes all these magazines nurse a lot of hope, and that is the spread of cable TV networks in India. In Bombay alone, there are 50 lakh subscribers of the cable networks and it is spreading fast. At least 1,000 networks are said to be operating in south Delhi alone. "Cable networks," says Vineet Narayan of Kaalchakra, "cannot provide

Some of the video newsmagazines that have hit the market





While newspapers do not have to submit themselves to censorship by the government video newsmaga zines in the country have to be certified by the censor board before release The reason is the archaic law requiring everything on film whether news or entertainment to be censored before being released for public consumption Already video newsmagazines have locked horns with the censor board because they felt that the cuts the board tried to impose were unjustified and meaningless

The video magazines argue that they are nothing but news on film and are in no way different from news on paper and should, therefore not have to undergo censorship After stubbornly refusing for two years to recognise that there was a problem, the ministry of information and broadcasting has at last started giving the problem some attention It recently invited the producers of all the video newsmagazines for a discussion But it is not known how long it will be before video maga zines are taken out of the purview of the censorship Act Till then, the magazines will have to face the censor board and its senseless cuts

Only recently, the censor board edited out Gandhiji himself! During a discussion on the Ayodhya issue in Kaalchakra, Rajeev Vora, a Gandhian quoted Gandhiji as having said that secularism was synonymous with the devil Vora went on to say that the mandir masjid problem could be solved by religious people and not by those who called themselves secular The censor board said that Gandhiji s views were an insult to the Constitution Kaalchakra later proved to the censor board that the word used in the Hindi version of the Constitution is not dharm nırpekshta (secularısm) but panth nurpekshta (equality of communities)

In Indianiew's story on Kashmir, the censor board edited out a portion of the script which ascribed the cries of Azadi to 44 years of corruption and nepot ism rigging and gross neglect by the Centre' while it let the Centre's Kash mir policy be blamed for fuelling mili tancy in the state

Such senseless editing may not help the censor board's reputation but the video newsmagazines have also not distinguished themselves by showing frequent disregard for common journa listic ethics The magazines have often kept the cameras on when off the record interviews are being given by people and then used them in the story

Only recently Kaalchakra went to Janata Dal leader Aut Singh's wife Radhika Singh who was undergoing treatment for depressive paranoia in a nursing home, and after shooting her with hidden cameras reported that slie had complained about maltreatment from her husband Radhika's voice was barely audible but the reporter de fended herself saying that since she had not taken permission to interview her she could not put the microphone in front of her

Some pertinent questions have been raised Is it fair to interview anyone without his/her permission? More so when the person is suffering from de pressive paranoia in which state she is bound to fear that others are out to kill her? Wasn't the doctor's permission called for before Radhika Singh was approached by the interviewer? And can a reporter force the viewers to believe what she claims Radhika told

In the US, the law forbids people from entering others homes and even if an interview is being conducted on phone permission is required before taperecording it

Unfortunately even Newstrack which claims to have greater credibility than all the other video newsmagazines did not distinguish itself with its coverage of the anti-Mandal agreation in Delhi Not only did the views of pro Mandalites not find any place in the story 99 per cent of the footage was from Delhi while the script claimed that their team of cameramen and reporters had fanned out throughout the country to cover the agitation Newstrack vir tually glorified the several young boys in Delhi who had attempted selfimmoiation when several other forms of protest were open to them If Doordarshan had shown similar footage and adopted the same editional line there is no doubt that many more young boys and girls would have destroyed themselves needlessly

the subscribers a diet of only Hindi movies. There has got to be some variety and newsmagazines will provide that He is confident that with the spread of cable networks the market for video magazine, will expand dramatically and they will all do very well

One of the biggest boons for the video magazine companies will be that piracy will be checked At present video libraries make illegal copies of the original cassettes and hire out to the customers. Once cable networks spread the marketing people will have to deal with fewer heads as cable networks have a wider coverage than the libraries. More important marketing de partments can create their own network of people in colonic, to inform them if their magazine is being shown and they can crosscheck with subscribers on their list to find out if illegal copies are being shown

What do these expansion of networks and proliferation of video newsmagazines point to? That we are in the midst of an

information revolution And no government can check this People have the technology and will use it to inform and entertain Doordarshan can sit ostrich like but for how long?

Pressure will soon begin to mount on it when more and more ITV Smart strate people begin dis



Vivek Sengupta

carding Doordarshan and turn to other channels of information and entertainment

During the Gulf war we saw people switching to Cable News Network (CNN) to get the latest information. One might well call the CNN coverage American propaganda but people wanted news and wanted it fast. And so much the better if they could see the war with their own eyes. The best way to counter the propaganda is not to prevent it or control it (which you can't do in any case) but to free Doordarshan of all governmental shackles so that it can provide an attrac tive alternative for the people

That's exactly what these video news magazines are waiting for Many of the big media giants who have invested in video magazines are marking ti ne till Dorrdar shan gets privatised or they are able to buy satellite time directly. If and when that happens they teel they will have better claims to make a bid for channels or buying time on television because of their track record

Some feel that this is bound to happen sooner than later. Others are not too sure But happen it will certainly. There is no stopping the winds of change



Sausage Curry

British	Metric	Ingredients	American
12	12 f	12	
5 fl oz	150 ml	€ cup	
5 fl oz	150 ml	water	£ cup
		singe-fry masala	
1 tsp	2.75 g	cumin powder	1 tsp
1 tsp	2g	coriander powder	1 tsp
1 tbsp	6 g	chilli powder	1 tbsp
1 tsp	3.5 g	turmeric powder	1 tsp
		follow-up masala	
2	2	capsicums, finely chopped	2
4	4	onions, finely chopped	4
4	4	tomatoes, finely chopped	4
1 tsp	5 g	garlic paste	1 tsp
1 <u>1</u> oz	40 g	pearl onions	i cup
1 tsp	5 g	salt, to taste	1 tsp
	du	ring-cooking masala	
2	2	bay leaves (tejpāt)	2
tsp	0.75 g	nutmeg, grated	½ tsp
1 tsp	2.5 g	amchoor	1 tsp
		garnish masala	
1 tbsp	29	green coriander, scissor-cut	1 tbsp
3	3	green chillies, scissor-cut	3

ate this delicious curry for the first time when I was studying in Prep school in a London suburb in 1930. To the best of my knowledge it was innovated by my late father as a quick means to satisfy our oriental tastes by using readily available pre-cooked English sausages.

Serves 4

Cooking Time: 20-25 minutes

Method

Single boil sausages, drain through a colander and cut into three pieces.

Take a saucepan and bring oil or lard to smoking. Add the singe-fry masala, adding turmeric last of all. When it stops spluttering add the follow-up masala and stir fry



for 5-10 minutes till the ingredients are soft and brownish.

Add the sausages and stir fry. Mix them well with the ingredients in the pan. Add one cup of water and simmer for 5-7 minutes. Add the during-cooking masala and simmer for another 5 minutes. Transfer to a serving dish and top it with the garnish masala. Serve immediately. Goes well with noodles or plain boiled fluffy rice.

From Curry Curry Curry by Ranjit Rai; published by Penguin India

7 DAYS



REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

 Dost Orient (Bentinck Street 281917) Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270)
 Kalika (Sadananda Road 178141)

Mithun Chakraborty and Amla are the lead pair in this film directed by A. Murah Mohan Rao The music is by R.D. Burman

• Dushman Devta Opera (Lenin Sarami 281849) Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road 249828) Prubhat (Chittar anjan Avenue 390762) Mitra (Bidhan Sarami 551133) Granesh (Upper Chitpur Road 392250) Priya (Rashbehari Avenue 464440) Jigat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road 365108)

A film by Anil Ganguly Starring Dharine ndra Aditya Pancholi Dimple Kapada Sonani and Sadashiy Amiapurkat The music is by Bappi Lahiri

• Hatyarın (A) Hind (Ginesh Chandra Avenuc 2/4259) Krish nı (1 C. Dutta Street 250437) Purnisrec (Raja Raj Kissen Sticet 554033)

A murder mystery starring Deepak Parashar Anuta Nangia Sti Prada Jamuna and Riza Murad The film is directed by Vinod Lalwar and the music is by Natesh Sharma

• Kissa Pahli Raat Ka (A) Society (Corporation Place 241002) -4 shows

An adult entertainer

• Paap K1 Aandhi Metro (Chowringhee Road 280141) Majestie (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road 242266) Sree (Bidhan Sara ni 551515) Grace (Mahatina Gan dhi Road 391090) Indira (India Roy Road 471757)

Directed by Mchul Kumar and with music by I axmikant Pyirelal

the chief attractions of this film are Dharmendra Aditya Pancholi Fatha and Shakti Kapoor

• Sanam Bewafa Lotus (5 N Bancrece Road 24,664) 12 3 6

A box office hit this film on teenage love stars Salman Khan and Chandni It is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor

Bengali Films

• Ananda Uttara (Bidhan Sarani 552200) Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road 350680) Ujjala (Russa Road 478666)—3 shows

Directed by Kumar Swapan who also stars along with Ramcshwari Anupama Chatter jee Kali Banerjee Ami Chatterijee and Joy Scrigupta The music is by Ajoy Kumar and Y S. Mulki

• Beder Meye Josna Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 553413) Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road 359561) Bharati (S.P. Mukherjec Road 4/4686) 1 4 7

One of the recent big hits this

Bangladesh production stars Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh Others in the cast are Saifuddin Dildar Nasir Khan Abbas Soma Anami ka Subhendu Amarnath and Bulbul The film is directed by Matiyur Rehmin Pinu and the music is by Abu Liher

• Bidhir Bidhan Darpana (Bidhan Sarani 558080) Purna (5 P Mukherjee Road 474567) — 2 30 5 30 8 15 Prachi (AJC Bosc Road 271282) 2 5 7 45 Arun Govil Satabdi Roy Ranjit

Arun Govil Satabdi Roy Ramit Mullick Sumitra Mukherjee Br joy Mahanty Mohan Chot Sangceta Das Papia Adhikari and Tapas Paul comprise the main cast. The film is directed by Mohanmed Moham and the music by Akshay Mohanty.

• Mahaprithivi Minar (Bidhan Sarani 552753) Bijoli (S P Mukherjet Road 473462) Chha bighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road 3)2740)—3 5 45 8 15

A Mrinal Ser film starring Victor Bancrjec Soumitta Chatterjec Gecta Sen Anjan Dutt Anusua Majumdar and Aparna Sen



Danny De Vito and Kathleen Turner in The War of the Roses

Special Events

14 April: 10 am

Manipuri Nartanalaya presents a lecture-demonstration on the Manipuri Nartan by Guru Bipin Singh on the occasion of the Cheirauba Festival.

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street: 225215/3516).

15 April: 6.30 pm

Kalamandalam, Calcutta presents the Arangetram ceremony of and Bharata Natyam recital by Madhuboni Chatteriee, disciple of Thankamanikutty.



Madhuboni Chatter iee

At G.D. Birla Sabhagar (Queens Park: 479717).



A scene from the play, Lok-Katha

16 April onwards: 2 pm - 7 pm

The 37th International Calendar Exhibition, till April 22.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302). 18 April: 6.30 pm

To mark the centenary of the Calcutta University Institute. Pancham Vaidic presents Saoli Mitra's Naathabati Anaathabat.

At University Institute (Bankim Chatterjee Street; 315214).

19 April: 6.30 pm OISCA Alumni India and Tarang present a cultural programme featuring tappa songs by filmmaker Utpalendu Chakraborty, classical



Mamata Mitra

vocal by Mamata Mitra and recitation by Soumitra Chatterjee.

At Kala Mandir [Basement] (Shakespeare Saranı; 449086). 20 April: 6.30 pm

Sanskriti Sagar presents an evening of bhajans by Kıshori

Amonkar.

At G.D. Birla Sabhagar 20 April: 6.30 pm

Layavinyas—a presentation of melody and rhythm in the Carnatic style with seven instruments, organised by Padatik Music Circle, At Padatik Little Theatre (6/7

AJC Bose Road; 476087). 20 April: 6.30 pm

Anamika presents the Hindi comedy play. Bari Buaji, based on Badal Sircar's original Bengali script and translated by Dr Pratibha Agarwal. Directed by Blimat Lath, the cast includes Vinita Rellin, Ajay Chatturwedi, Yogesh Suri, Anna Bhattacharya, Laxini Prasad, Ajay Mishra, Dinesh Thakker and Aditi Sircar.

At Kala Mandir [Basement]: 20 April onwards: 6.30 pm

Rangakarmee presents a threeday festival of its award-winning Hindi plays, Mahabhoj on 20th, Lok-Katha on 21st and Holi on 22nd, all directed by Usha Ganguli.

At Sisir Mancha (1 AJC Bose

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915;

Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): Al-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2025.

London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7): Al-132/1328 at 1230.

* Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1525.

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1725.
* Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-

Celcutta-Hanoi: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0840; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0750. Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-

Tanhkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1615; Dep. (2): SU-542 at 1815.

Ammen-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184 at 0645.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep (5): RJ-185 at 0530.

+ Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (1): RO-063 at 1115, Arr. (6): RO-063 at 1045, Dep. (1): RO-063 at 1230, Dep. (6): RO-063 at 1200. + Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest: Arr. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2015. Dep. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2130.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2). 8Q-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-420 at 1310.

pore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at 1210.

Celcutte-Bengkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7):

IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Bengkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6). TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1455

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): RA-213 at 1355.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (3, 6): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (daily): BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935.

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr. (3, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (daily): BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5): BG-698 at 1950.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 1910.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (2): KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India www

Calcutta-Bornbay: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): Al-1328 at 1230.

Indian Airlines IIII

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutte-Bombey: Dep. (daily): IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850; Arr. (daily): IC-175 at 0750 and IC-

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

274 at 1850.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (daily): IC-765 at 1700; Arr. (daily): IC-766 at 2210.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (daily): IC-771 at 0610; Arr. (daily): IC-772

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily): IC-409 at 1545.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-410 at 0615.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340; Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0800; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6); IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-743 at 1330. Dep. (3, 5, 6, 7): 16-241 at 0700, Dep. (1, 2, 4): IC-241 at 0700; Arr. (daily): IC-744 at 1600, Arr. (3, 5, 6, 7): IC-242 at 1350, Arr. (1, 2, 4): IC-242 at 0900. Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (daily): IC-201 at 1400; Arr. (daily): IC-202 at 1730.

Calcutte-Bagdogra: Dep. (daily):

IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (daily): IC-222 at 1320.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (daily): IC-255 at 1050; Arr. (daily): IC-256 at 1530.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 7): IC-270 at 1910.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-270 at 2040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-219 at 0840; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-220 at 1320. Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 7): IC-277 at 1745; Arr. (1, 2, 7): IC-278 at 2215.

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 0700; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at 0915.

Calcutta-imphal: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-259 at 1330; Arr. (2, 4, 6); IC-260 at 1610.

Vavudoot!

Calcutte-Agartele-Kailesaher: Dep. (2, 4): PF-729 at 0930; Arr. (2, 4): PF-730 at 1330.

* No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkant-Calcutta. + No traffic rights on Calcutta-Bangkok-Calcutta

7 DAYS

Calcutta-Agartaia-Slichar Dep [7) PF-729A at 0710 Arr (7) PF-730A at 1140 Calcutta-Cooch Behar. Dep (1 3, 5) PF 707 at 0855 Arr (1 3, 5)

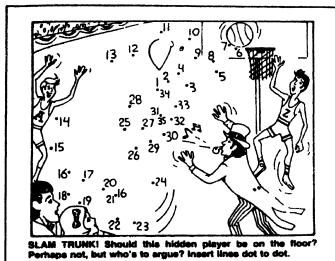
PF-708 at 1150
Calcutta-Agartala-Alzawi. Dep
(2, 4, 6, 7) PF-705 at 0855, Dep
(1, 3, 5) PF-705A at 1220, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-706 at 1250 Arr (1, 3, 3)

5) PF-706A at 1615 Calcutta-Jamshadpur: Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) PF 717 at 0600, Arr (1 2 3, 4 5 6) PF-718 at 0745 Calcutta-Agartaia-Shillong: Dep

(1 3 5 6) PF-701 at 0930 Arr (3 5, 6) PF-702 at 1400 Calcutta-Agartaia-Shillong Calcutta: Dep (7) PF-701 1210 Arr (7) PF-702 at 1615

Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival		Departure		SOUTH-EASTERN	Arr	Arrivel	
Up .	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn			RAILWAY			
2311	19-00	Delhi-Kalka Mail	8-30	2312	Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn	
3005	19-20	Amritoar Mail	8-05	3006	1 -					
3003	20-00	Bombey Mell via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Madres Mail	7-00	600	
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mall via Nagpur	8-00	800	
		press via Gaya-Varanası			2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	285	
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat Arr-Wed Fr: & Sun			8034	20-20	Ahmedebed Express	5-05	803	
2303	9-15		40.00	0004	8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	802	
2303	9 -15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex- press via Patna Dec-Mon Wed Fri & Sun	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madrae) Ex- press	11-50	284	
		Arr-Mon Tues Thurs & Sat			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express Dep—Tues	13-45	261	
2301	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	1		Arr-Sun			
		week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	801	
		Dep-Mon Tues Thurs Fr. &			8011	6-10	lapet Express	21-45	801	
		Sun			8005	21-00	Sambelpur Express	7-30	800	
		Arr-Tues Wed Thurs Sat &			8015	21-40	Renchi Hetia Express	6-05	8010	
		Sun			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	800	
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkly	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jegennath (Puri) Express Via Naraj	7-45	8410	
		Dep—Tues Fri & Sat Arr—Tues Wed & Sat			2821	5-55	Dhauil (Bhubaneswar) Ex- press	21-20	282	
2547	13-15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	8079	23-20	Tirupati Express	4-15	808	
		press DepMon & Thurs			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabed) Ex- press	14-55	804	
		Arr-Thurs & Mon			8017	16-45	Purulia Express	11-20	801	
009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-20	3010			Dep—Except Saturday Arr—Except Sunday		-	
007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	-	
1049	13-05	Amriteer Express	15-45	3050	ł		Monday only			
1011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	l _	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	260	
1039	20-55	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-30	3040			- Guwahati Express Saturday only	,0 10		
1019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020		14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649	
1021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	l		Guwahati Weekly Express			
557	6-00	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)			
659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660	l		Thursday only			
317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15		
029	17-15	Coaffield Express	10-30	3030			Terminus Weekly Express			
035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036	ł		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)			
031	21-00	Denepur Express	6-35	3032	1		Saturday only			
025	23-00	North Bihar Express	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	265	
		DepWednesday ArrFriday		0020	2002	22.00	Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)	13-0	200	
071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6-00	3072	l		Dep—Fri & Sun			
·	~~	Dep-Tues Thurs & Sat	 	W12	Ì		An-Tues & Fn			
		Arr-Mon Thurs & Sat			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangaiore City	22-15		
015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	20/4	EE-33	Weekly Express (via Howrah	EE-13	-	
159	15-25	Chembel (Gwellor) Tri-	7-30	2160	1		& Cuttack)			
		weekly Superlast Express	,-30	E 100			Wednesday only			
		Dep-Thurs Sat & Sun				14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	207	
		Arr-Tues Wed & Thurs			_	14-10	Weekly Express (via Howrah	13-40	267	
171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express	7-30	1172	l		& Cuttack)			
•••		Dep-Tues & Wed	,-30	11/2	1		Monday only			
		Arr—Sat & Sun			2010	22-35		22.45		
327	15-25	Shektipuni (Chopen) Ex-	7-30	3328	2610	22-33	Patne-Cochin Harbour Ter- minus Weekly Express (via	22-15	_	
ψL/	10-23	press Dep & Arr—Mon & Fri	7-30	JJ20			Howrah)			
049	22-25		10.40	EOFO	}		Thursday only	46.45		
שרט	22-23	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	_	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patna Weekly Express (via	13-45	260	
		Sealdah					Howrah) Wednesday only			
143	19-00	Darjeeling Mell	8-45	3144	1					
153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154						
151	11-26	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152	ENQU	RIES: Fo	round the clock information of	Eastern	Tellwe	
133	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via	12-50	3134	trains,	please d	lai 203545-54 for in-coming trais	18; 203 53(5-44 fo	
		SBG Loop			all oth	er inform	nation. For information about	recervation	ons o	
103	40.00	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	1 2104	Engler	n and So	uth Eastern Reliways trains, die	203500	Henry !	
100	18-20	STANDINGUID (LANGUE) EXERTED	10-20	' 3104			weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm			

JUNIOR WHIRL D Hal Kaufman



• STATELY TASK! Give the names of the U.S. states in

- which these words can be found 1 Pen 2 Hire 3 See
- 4 Ego 5 Shin 6 Law
- 2 nogero 6 sessenne 7 6 swinsquark welk 5 answeled 7 february 2 min organifest 4 EGO 2 Spilu 9 FBM 5 swinsday 5 answeled 5 noticinest 1



NEXT CASE SCENARIO Three persons -Mr X, Mrs Y and

Miss Z-are waiting their turn in the outer office

Suddenly, the door opens, and the nurse says, "Next

Mr X who has been busy read-ig, looks up and asks Mrs Y if it is her turn

Mrs Y admits that she, too, as ben engrossed in a maga zine, and doesn't know who's next. Whereupon, Miss Z informs Mr X that it is his turn

Quickly, which one of the two women arrived last—Mrs Y or Miss Z?

evert fon bluow erte sest saw S selfy th Y arth saw X Mr mworst

• A TO ZI Challenge: Start ing at one of the A's in the diagram below and moving from square to square in any direction—across, down or diagonally—trace all 26 letters of the alphabet (from A to Z) in order.

Naturally, you must find the right A with which to begin. How quickly can you meet the challenge?

Select with As fourth row down ned pro

A	K	L	E	٥	C	В
5	2	Z	G	I	A	J
I	В	0	۵	U	В	A
G	Η	A	Ρ	G	Ť	α
щ	В	U	B	R	Ø	2
U	Ε	۵	G	Y	5	V
	Z					

HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Earliep is missing 2 Scarl is moved 3 Lag is moved 4 Cpp.
Differences 5 House is moved 6 Steering bar is smaller.

FUNSPOT



SHELL GAME! Business is picking up for these shell hunters Add colors by number. 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Green. 7—Dk brown 8—Lt purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

ALPHABET

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points. Possible anagera Bels path



OUIZ D'NETO SHE

Priya Pandey, Calcutta-6 asks about the story behind the doggerel

Lizzie Borden took an ax. And gave her mother forty whacks.

When she saw what she had done,

She gave her father forty-

The Borden household had never been a happy one, but by using separate staircase and eating at different times, the two girls—Lizzie and Emma—rarely encountered their father, Andrew, or stepmother Abby, so the house was usually quiet The only other person who lived in the house was Bridget Sullivan, the Insh maid

August 4, 1982, was a typically sweltering Massachusetts summer morning in Fall River Sometime between 9 00 and 9 30, someone entered the guest bedroom on the second floor of the Borden house and proceeded to demolish Abby Borden s skull with 19 vicious swipes of the hatchet Lizzie and Bridget were the only other people known to be in the house. For the next 90 minutes, both young women went about their business, each either not knowing of the body that lay in the house or doing a superb job of hiding that knowledge

About 10 30, Andrew Borden returned from his busi ness rounds and lay down for a nap on a sofa in the downstairs sitting room Within minutes, someone slipped in and killed him with one swift hatchet whack Then the murderer dealt nine more blows

At 11 10, Lizzie found her father s body Soon after, a neighbour found Abby s

Lizzie was arrested for the murders a week later on the basis of a weak chain of circumstantial evidence. The trial took 13 days One authority believes that the jury was swayed when the defence attorney, after having described the murderers in bloody detail, pointed at his very proper, feminine, char-ity-working defendant and



11th Question: The Trojan war was ostensibly fought because Paris kidnapped Helen. Why is it almost certain that this reason was just an excuse and that the cause of the war was something en-tirely different? (Vikas Singh, C/20, Sec-tor-18, Rourkela-769003, Orissa.)

Ans: Not only did Helen voluntarily run off with Paris but her husband Menelaus of Sparta (who had prob-ably run out of ships) did nothing about it for almost 10 years. Then, when the Trojans increased the toll tax on Greek ships trading with the Black Sea ports several folds, Menelaus suddenly decided to avenge his wife's kidnapping.

said, "To find her guilty, you must believe she is a fiend Gentlemen, does she look

It is likely that Lizzie was, indeed, innocent, but before the trial had even begun, the taunting nursery rhyme that has kept her name alive to this day was being chanted throughout Fall River by rope-skipping children

That rhyme, as much as anything else, branded Liz-zie Borden a murderess till the day she died

After her acquittal, Lizzie made a brief statement to the press it was typical of her inbred stubbornness and strength "A good many persons have talked to me as if they thought I would go and live somewhere else when

my trial was over I am going home and I am going to stay there '

After that she never spoke to members of the press, and they resented her for it Because she was so silent. reporters camped out in front of her house, hoping to see something to satisfy Borden-hungry editors and readers

Lizzie and Emma remained in the murder house only long enough to settle their father's estate Then they sold the modest house and purchased a mansionthat they considered much more compatible with their wealth and class Still, they stayed in Fall River

Being a cultured woman, Lizzie made regular trips to New York and Boston to take in the theatre and concerts In 1905 she invited a theatrical troupe to her home for a party Fall River sold families were scandalised that anyone, especially Lizzie Borden, would entertain actors, who at that time were considerea little more savoury than thieves Emma, who still lived with Lizzie, was extremely upset, and shortly thereafter moved out Lizzie and Emma never spoke again

Lizzie lived well, employing several servants She loved animals When she died, on June 1, 1927, she left \$30,000 in cash and a wealth of stock holdings to the Animal Rescue League of Fall River As she explained in her will, "I have been fond of animals and their need is great and there are so few who care for them

Interestingly, though she left large sums of money to friends and servants, she left nothing to Emma, "as she had her share of Father's estate and is supposed to have enough to make her comfortable " Emma, who died 10 days after her younger sister, did leave some property to Lizzie in her will

Lizzié Borden was buried in the family plot alongside her father, mother, and stepmother

QUESTIONS

1. Which game originated in Persia, but takes its name from the Tibetan for 'ball'? (Biplab Biswas, Calcutta-65)

2. Which Hindu god is believed to have devoured his parents at birth? (Man-oj Kumar Singh, Patratu) 3. What gems do some sci-entists believe form in outer space in clouds many light years away? (Sheikh Ab. Rab, Burdwan) 4. In Roman mythology, who opened the gates of heaven every morning for the Sun God Apollo? 5. To whom was Samuel

Taylor Colendge referring when he said, "if he were not the first chemist he would have been the first poet of his age"? (Arun Kunger Purchit, Calcutta-7) 5. Which late Hindi screen actor-director said, "Sex is sweat is sugar, hence it causes disbetes of the mind"? (Mancher Mandal,

Nabuchrip)
7. What is the Prime Minister's plub? (Chender Rej. Michael, Calcutts-54)
8. "Fused to have a rule that known allowed a man to lake me until he'd proposed merrings. I repolyed

49 proposals and I accepted the 50th, which was a terrible mistake and ended in divorce "Which best selling novelist said this? (Anjanava Datta, Cal-cutta-31)

9. Who is the only cricketer to score a century in both innings of a class match with a runner? (Kaushik Kumar Nag, Chinsura) 18. What is meant by 'salad days'? (Satish Agarwal, Jeypore)

ANSWERS

Anfohy and Cleopains I, V) When I was green in When I was green in cashire in the English
county chembionship.
18. Days of inexperience,
when persons are very
gleen—"My salad days.
Gleen—"My salad days. To you were the inclusions of the inclusions of the inclusion of the inclusion of the inclusion of other, largest Premiers.

8. Derbers Centand.
8. Green Fowler of Lanceston in the Erreles.
Consists Inclusion Sir Hamphry Devy, who ye poems as a hobby.

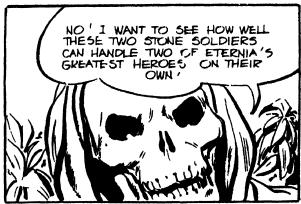


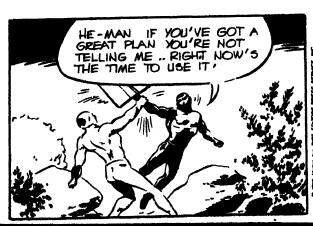








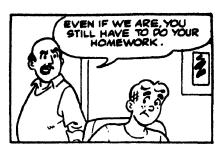
















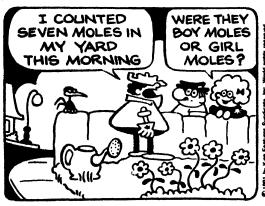


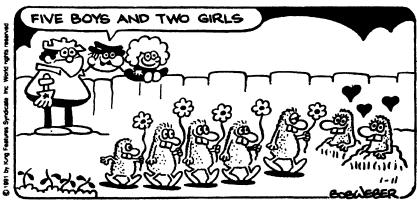






MOOSEMILLER By Bob Weber

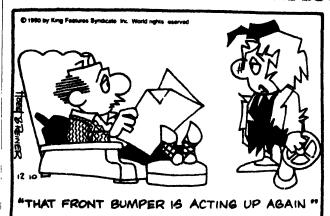








THE LOCKHORNS



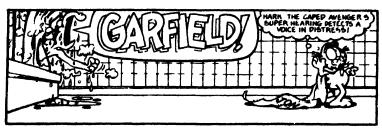




"GO ON HOME TO YOUR HUBBAND, MA'AM YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH "

GARFIELD By Jim Davis

tk este heinet











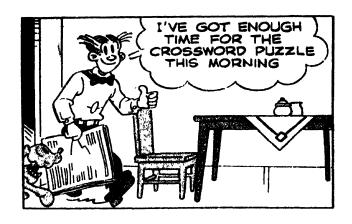








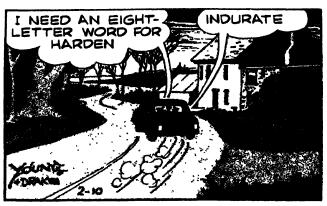




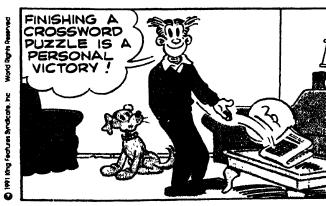












CANDID CAMERA



While fighting tooth and nail for a place in the sun, Orissa chief minister **Biju Patnaik** should realise that his antagonism for UP-oriented Centre politics should not extend to a call for Orissa to secede. It's bad enough opening your mouth too much, but why prise it open further?

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Make it secure with a house of her own.

There is no better gift that you can give to your child. A secure future.

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POST MORTEM

Mamatass Mamata Because...

The cover story on Mamata Banerjee (The Challenge, March 24) was timely and appropriate. Mamata is perhaps the most popular political leader in West Bengal today. There is no doubt that she has great potential as a leader.

However, she is too individualistic and relies too much on gimmicks. She needs a lot more maturity to assume the office that was once held by Dr B.C. Roy, P.C. Sen, Siddhartha Shankar Ray and currently being held by Jyoti Basu. Jaydeep Guha Thakurta, Calcutta

- So what if Mamata Baneriee is too much of an individualist? We need women like her in our male dominated society.

 Sanjay Dayal,
 Ranchi
- Mamata Banerjee has reached the peak of her popularity only because of her hard work and devotion to her brief, which many of the senior leaders of the Congress(I) lack. They are

naturally jealous and jit-

To nickname her privately as Beder Meye Jossa because of her humble origins is in extremely bad taste and smacks of culture. Arabinda Bose, Calcutta

- Mannata is Mannata because she has God-gifted stamina or how could she have returned from the doors of death and still put the lear of God into the Marxists? There is no doubt that Mannata has become a real headache for the rulers of West Bengal! Shovaniai Bakshi, Calcutta
- The outraged people of West Bengal look upon Mamata Banerjee as Birangana Devi. The leftist leaders are naturally worried about her growing popularity. So, they attacked her mercilessly on August 16, 1990. She came out of that incident with even more courage. The stage is now set for the confrontation between Mamata and the CPI(M) to come to its conclusion.

 Biplab Kumar Ghosh.
- The guts and determina-

Bagula (W.B.)

Mamata Banerjee: Woman power



tion this woman has shown is admirable. Now even fortune is beginning to favour her. Sampad Ray, Calcutta

■ The cover depicted the wrong person as the challenge to CPI(M) and Lyoti Basu. It should have been Siddhartha Shankar Ray.

Of course, Mamata is the best among the women politicians in eastern India and deserves our fullest respect. Rakesh Verma, Calcutta

■ Watch out, Jyoti Basu, Mamata Banerjee is alive and well.

Ambica A.G. Singh,

Calcutta

Over boundary!

The story on Snehasish and Sourav Ganguly ('Bengal Brothers', March 10) focused on the two promising cricketers from this state. I feel Sourav, the younger of the two, has already staked his claim for inclusion in the Indian Test squad, but I do not agree with the writer that "for many Calcuttans Sourav is the answer to Bombay's Sachin Tendul-kar". Sometimes overrating and excessive optimism have made a budding talent complacent and ruined his future prospects.

pects.

Prahlad Agarwala,

Nadia

Currying Favour

Your Candid Camera has always been a much awaited page. It is simply great—and that includes the last one on P.T. Usha (March 17).

What I don't understand is why you misuse this page by printing things like Curry Curry Curry and depriving us of Candid Camera.

Partha Hui,
Calcutta

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

21 APRIL 1991

N.T. Rama Rao's film, Vishwamitra, after having been shelved for a while is now complete



The modern politician is a product of perfect packaging and marketing. So, a political campaign is today more than political speeches alone; it is hardsell, too.

13 Malavika Tiwari is just one example of Bombay professionalism in modelling.

16
The illustrated history of India during the Raj.

SECTIONS

Heritage

🚄 Inner Eye

🤼 7 Days

Juhior Whirl

24 Quiz

Comics

30 Images

Cover Buibul Sharma

IN THE NEWS

THE TEST OF EXACTION



pril 19 triggers off a visual championing of the backward classes and the downtrodden. Coinciding with the forthcoming Parliament elections in Andhra Pradesh is the release of N.T. Rama Rao's Brahmarshi Vishwamitra. The film also juxtaposes with the political career of Telugu Desam supremo and National Front chairman—his taking to active politics at the age of 60, his becoming a rajayogi (saffron robing on Ugadi Day at Tirupathi in 1983) and now philosophising as a brahmarshi, though on silver screen.

Set in the pattern of all NTR's anti-hero mythologicals, Brahmarshi Vishwamitra is another expression of his bloated ego in the belief that he could surcharge and immortalise any role he played. Despite his box-office failures on like themes as Karna, Duryodhana, Ravana and Keechaka, NTR never misses any opportunity to

By the time you read this, N.T. Rama Rao will have

hit the screen with Vishwamitra, his cinematic campaign. But

will life imitate art.

asks G.S RADHAKRISHNA

display his acting bravado. But with his political ambitions NTR converted antiheroism into philosophy for the downtrodden. Most of his populist measures as Telugu Desam chief minister that were picked up from his earlier films include widow pensions, housing for the poor, women's education and equal property rights for women besides the subsidy rice

for the poor.

NTR's attempt to capture the attention of voters through his films is nothing new or extraordinary. On the eve of the 1983 elections where he was a debutant, NTR made two films, Bobbili Pali and Chandashasanudu, casting aspersions on the state of anarchy in the state Congress(I) regime. For the 1984 Parliament and 1985 Assembly elections he produced Srimad Virat Veerabrahmendragari Charitamthe life-story of a saint of Cuddapah who made several predictions of violence and instability in the country. It was through this film that NTR tried to project himself as one of the daivamsha sambhutudu (a Juvine personality) portrayed as Gautam Buddha, Vamana, and so on. In the film he even cast his son, Nandamuri Balakrishna—his heir apparent in Telugu filmdom. However, NTR's disclosure of Balakrishna as his torchbearer in politics in 1986-87 at a meeting in Madarapalle created a storm in the TDP as well as the state.

NTR's plans for Vishwamitra were once again aired by him in 1988 at a briefing in the secretariat after a cabinet meeting. While his chief secretary, G.R. Nair, and additional chief secretary, N. Santharam, sat listening in admiration, NTR had narrated his quest for a Menaka and about his philosophy of Vishwamitra The usual corps of secretariat newsmen, for a change, found a spicy story in (almost verbatim): "Wanted a Menaka, aged not more than 23, diploma in dance and with an appealing personality". He had ruled out south stars-Sridevi or Jaya Prada And the choice finally fell on Meenakshi Seshadri, after he interviewed about 30 attractive damsels including the daughter of his old flame, Devika.

Since his favourite script-writer Kondaveeti Venkatakavi had already penned a script for another contender, NTR chose to write the script and dialogue himself, but let one of his ardent admirers. Nagabhairav Koteswar Rao, to pen the screenplay. "I wrote the script and screenplay in 62 days non-stop. NTR briefed ine on the storyline from 1 am over four hours and I translated it into words throughout the day." The script-writer had to reside in NTR's ashramain, Shanti Kuteeram at Gandipet for the period. NTR also made his ashramam his permanent abode for nearly four months. Even the chief secretary and party officials had to call on him at Gandipet for routine administrative functions. The Nacharam Studio of NTR was also given illegal permission to construct a studio-floor as the earlier sanction given in 1983 was only as a horticultural garden studio. A camp office for the chief minister and security arrangements were also made at Nacharam.

n his efforts to get the film rolling and ready before the 1989 elections, NTR organised the film's mahurat shot at the Nacharam Studio as another platform to bring the non-Congress(I) parties together. Over 18,000 invitation cards were distributed, with 200 VIPs, filmstars and National Front leaders including V.P. Singh and three non-Congress(1) chief ministers present on the occasion for which the state government had made elaborate arrangements. About 100 closecircuit television screens were put up all over the studio premises for NTR fans to witness the mahurat shot which was astro-

logically fixed for 12.54 hours on June 18. 1989. The best part of the day's show was both Menaka (Meenakshi) and Vishwamitra (NTR) atop an open jeep making the rounds in the Nacharam Studio as part of a preview exercise.

But the film got into a lot of trouble, including a court case filed by a Congress(I) leader against a chief minister acting in films. However, the court dismissed the petition. Even then NTR and his team were not ready to release the film in time for the elections which were announced in October. The Congress(I) government. however, outsmarted NTR by sanctioning a tele-serial on Vishwainitra to be directed by Dasari Narayan Rao. The serial, however, was a poor caricature of Vishwamitra and a slur on the record of Narayan Rao. But Dasari claims that the serial (starring Mukesh Khanna and Bhanupriya) was not given sufficient scope to develop.

In view of the tele-serial which portraved the lore of Vishwamitra in a straighter manner, NTR had to release a 'mini' Vishwamitra—a compilation of sever: 1 scenes of the film in the form of a video cassette for electioneering.

But NTR's political hopes began rising again since the removal of the V.P. Singh government in November 1990, and he immediately engaged himself with the film. The lyrics are written by C. Narayana Reddy whom NTR had made vicechancellor of Telugu University. Wellknown musician Ravindra Jain has composed the music for both the Telugu and Hindi versions of Vishwamitra. The Hindi version is being shelved for the time being for want of proper buildup and also in apprehension of it being labelled as a campaign vehicle of the National Front. In the last week of March, NTR even reshot some sequences owing to certain changes made in the script. It is said that much of the old rhetoric was given up. And some of the disappointments NTR had vis-a-vis the National Front are also given expression in the film by his seeking psychological integration of democratic forces and their leadership and not just numerical unity.

Whatever be the achievement of NTR through this film, historians and conservatives will have a rude shock. By idolising the anti-hero as a saviour of the world, in presenting the gayatri mantram and in the creation of the Trishanku Swargam, NIR has deviated from the original. But the film has all the makings of a blockbuster with the vivacious Meenakshi Seshadri and the septuagenarian NTR at their best. Whether it will cast a spell on the electorate and put the regionalist maestro back in the national limelight with more Lok Sabha seats remains to be seen.

Facing page: (Top) NTR as the sage Vishwamitra; (left) Meenakshi Seshadri as the temptress Menaka; (far left, top) Menaka and Vishwamitra; (far left, below) NTR's son Balakrishna as Raja Harishchandra and Deepika as his queen; photographs by C. Kesavulu and Ghattu

COVER STORY

"In the past 15 months of 'political experiment', we have all undergone 'political turmoil' and our country has been left directionless. Our problems have increased greatly with the uncertainty which has vexed everyone. Non-Congress governments have failed and they have brought the country to the brink of disaster. Internationally, too, we have lost our standing and the credibility which had been consolidated by Pandith and Indiray has been eroded.

"... I am confident that with your support and the support of your friends and colleagues we can form a stable government at the Centre and can work hard together to build a strong and progressive India—the India of our dreams."

---Excerpts from a letter written by Rajiv Gandhi, Aprıl 4.

pening my mail after a three-day trip outside Delhi, I found a signed letter from Rajiv Gandhi. I have to admit it made me feel good though it was clearly a mass mailed letter. More important, Gandhi's letter was proof that political marketing has come of age in India.

This is the first campaign in which India's traditional ruling party has realised the need to sell candidates instead of merely buying votes. In fact, as the main opposition party, it does not have the wherewithal of government-funded projects and welfare giveaways to buy votes. In 1979, too, it was on the outside but benefitted from the fact that ruling Janata Party's singular anti-Congress platform fell apart as the party unraveled.

In a sense, this is India's first truly competitive election. The 1989 election was really a fight between the ruling Congress and a motley collection of interests come together on an anti-Congress platform. The voter had no real choice Whereas today he can pick and choose from the BJP's fundamentalist stand, the Janata Dal/National Front's confrontationist politics and the Congress appeals for stability and economic growth.

Surprisingly, the Congress Party is a relative laggard when it comes to political marketing. Perhaps this is because until recently it has operated in a sellers' market. No more. The last election showed that the voter is looking for aggressively marketed options. Much as the consumer today is looking for choice and quality.

In that respect, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with its fundamentalist platform, the Janata Dal with its caste calculus, even regional parties based on ethnic appeal like Telugu Desam and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) are miles ahead in market positioning.

The interior of India's nationalist movement finds itself without a niche in today's wildly competitive electoral market Like

POWER

Gone are the days when a campaign meant only political speeches and communicating with the masses from the platform. Today a campaign also means a high-power media blitz through advertisements. The modern messiah is just another consumer product who has to be sold, if necessary through hardsell. **Rajiv Desai** on

what is now a campaign trail

IBM fighting to retain market leadership in the face of competition from clones and Apple, the Congress has devised a stability platform, urging order and standards in the marketplace. And like IBM at has the organisation and the resources to make the platform stick.

Thus with clearly articulated platforms and receptive voters, the various political parties must mount a campaign to convince voters to support their candidates. Thus is where the Congress has a clear advantage. The other parties are likely to have difficulty finding candidates, which means they will be competing for segments of the market.

Theoretically, any party can win enough seats to form the government next June. However, the non-Congress parties face an uphill task unless they come together as they did in 1989. For the moment it does not appear they will form an alliance, much less a coalition.

But then just as corporations do merge to preserve their market positions, the non-Congress lot could set aside their differences in order to form a government. Especially if the result is a hung Parliament, with no party getting a working majority.

Apart from having products (political candidates) to market, the various parties need to do a number of other things in order to mount a successful campaign. They must create an election campaign to sell the candidate and the party. This goes beyond slogans such as Mandal and Mandir into interpreting the platform for a variety of audiences.

One element of the campaign is the equivalent of point-of-sale promotion. In this, the company provides promotional material to its dealers and distributors. In the political realm, this translates to posters, banners, bunting, buttons, stickers to be delivered to various party units in the constituencies, districts and states.

The best organised party will have a headstart in the point-of-sale campaign Presumably, here too, the winner will be



-PACKED

the Congress with its far-flung network of state, district and block-level committees.

Press relations is another vital aspect of the campaign. How the press portrays the party, its programmes and its candidates is crucial to image, which is the soul of the campaign. This image cannot be divorced from reality. So it is important to manage the reality and interpret it for the press.

Clearly the best exponent of this aspect of the campaign is the Janata Dal. Starting from Fairfax and Bofors in 1987, the party's strategists won over the press. The walkouts in Parliament and all manner of other protests were undertaken with a view to the press gallery. Party spokesmen kept hammering away at the corruption theme and created a reasonable doubt about the Congress.

For its part, the Congress alienated the press. Its spokesmen were arrogant, dismissing the press as an urban phenomenon

with little impact on rural India. The strategy came a cropper. Newsmen dismissed Congress replies on corruption and flocked to the Janata Dal.

Judging from press coverage this time the Congress seems to have realised the error of its 1989 strategy. Though editorial writers and op-ed pundits still seem hostile, the party viewpoint is getting through in the news and analysis columns.

If it continues to woo the press aggressively, the Congress can wipe out the hostility to it, especially because an important segment of the press feels duped because the National Front government did not keep its election promise of revealing the truth about Bofors and various other scandals.

Perhaps the most visible aspect of the election campaign is advertising. Especially with the spread of consumerism. In the last election campaign, the Congress campaign became controversial and resulted in negative perceptions, which were fainted

in the editorial pages by hostile journalists.

The Janata Dal/National Front hardly advertised, choosing to rely instead on editorial coverage hostile to the Congress advertising campaign. The BJP did advertise but showed its urban trader outs. Its advertisements looked remarkably similar to what a small-time urban trader or merchant might issue.

This time, the impending advertising campaign by the various political partier has drawn much press attention. So crucial is this aspect in the minds of party strategists that Congress president Rapy Gandhiearly on told newsmen to expect a on campaign.

But one of the problems with political advertising is that those who brief the agencies have a problem targeting audiences. And this is the critical first step in any advertising. The growth and nicreasing sophistication of media planning is ample testimony.

However, in political advertising party briefers often confuse the audience. The

How the press portrays the party, its programmes and its candidates is crucial to image, which is the soul of the campaign. This image cannot be divorced from reality. So it is important to manage the reality and interpret it for the press

overwhelming rural bias and the have not syndrome, which dominate political thinking in this country, result in ineffective advertising. So you have the incongruous depiction of rural progress and development in hard-nosed business dailie. The lesson Lead with a media plan, then work out the messages under an umbrella theme.

A key audience, campaign strategists must target is the party itself. This is the equivalent of employee communications. The objective is to charge up workers to go out and spread the party's message. Though not very visible, this is perhaps the most important part of the campaign. It the party is not mobilised, it cannot hope to win.

In this relatively new area, too, the Congress is out front of the other parties. Use of videotapes and audiotapes has now become commonplace. The party lead-



ership uses these modern tools to communicate with the rank and file. The BJP, too, makes effective use of these media, except they are used in addition to solicit voters.

Public relations is equally important in an election campaign. The idea is to identify key constituencies and actively solicit their support. Both the Janata Dal/National Front and the BJP have a headstart here. The problem is they have defined their constituencies much too narrowly.

With the Dal/Front it is the backward

Castes and with the BJP, fundamentalist Hindus. Their assumption is each constituency forms an electoral majority. Their strategists clearly hope they can mobilise them to vote *en bloc*.

It is highly unlikely the strategy will work Communists the world over have tried to awaken people through ideology. Granted theirs is a far more intellectual approach while the Dal/Front and BJP appeal is primordial. Still, in the long term human beings do not take kindly to ideolo-

gical appeals, though they may be awed for the moment. Hitler used a similar primordial platform in Nazi Germany and he along with his country came to grief.

Whatever the outcome of the election, the election campaign will play a critical role in influencing it. I began by saying that political marketing has come of age in India. Not quite, perhaps. Because the parties see their rivals for votes as enemies rather than competitors. But still there are healthy signs that new rules of the game are evolving

Sam Balsara on why the Congress(I) is like Cinthol soap

Vou need to harness the discipline and skills of advertising and marketing to sell the politician. When I sell a product, say, Cinthol, I don't have a large target audience which is bitter about the soap, saying, "Cinthol chor har." In political advertising, there is:

One important difference makes political advertising differ from brand or service advertising: Recognising the fact that the target audience or electorate may have very strong, deep-rooted behefs about a certain political party or candidate. You are not starting at zero, sometimes you start on a negative point. It is necessary to recognise where the starting point is

You have to be far more sensitive about crafting words. It's almost like handling a new bride. Everything could just go wrong. That's the fundamental difference between political and brand advertising Another important thing about trying to market a politician is that you are far more open to mudslinging from the opponent may attack the campaign itself, this is not so common in brand advertising unless the campaign is very provocative.

We have the experience in taking care of the Congress(I) campaign in south Bombay in the last two elections. We've felt that the world over negative advertising in politics may work. But our electorate (for example, south Bombay with whom we have experience) doesn't appreciate it. Unfortunately, I think this is too deep rooted in a politician. You draw them into a political discussion and I can challenge you that in 60 seconds he will stop talking about himself and will talk badly about the other guy. I don't know why but I think it must be easier to do that rather than saying how good I am. How can I sell my advertising agency by running down others? I must find some good points. however measly, and project them. That's where the skill of the person campaigning comes in.

With the Indian electorate, one must recognise that advertising plays a marginal role in making up the voters' mind. In conventional product or service advertising, the greater the media pressure, the greater the impact. In political advertising this can be counter-productive. We Indians have a great thing for the underdog. It calls for a certain amount of skill to be seen and heard above the noise level, but at the

In conventional product or service advertising, the greater the media pressure, the greater the impact. In political advertising this can be counter-productive. We Indians have a great thing for the underdog same time not appear to be overdoing it. The size of the advertising, frequency and scheduling must make your point - but not too much, and so often that people say, "This guy has more money than brains."

Entirely by my own personal experience, I feel political advertising goes for something warm, friendly, firm not threatening—"warning you of the consequences." To some extent it's the same with a client—if I walk into a Calcutta office and say, "I am warning you, if you don't take my agency, your business will go right down. Other agencies are bad." I'll lose a client, and if I'm not lucky, my neck

I did the campaign for Murii Deora (south Bombay) when I was with Mudra in 1984. We (Madison) handled it in 1989 and are doing it again. Our last campaign for Murh Deora when juxtaposed with the Congress(I) campaign did him a world of good. Meet the man who made it possible was the main line for the subjects from tenants to eye camps to immunisation and free school uniforms.

That was the campaign—but Murli Deora saying it about Murli Deora is good.



but not good enough. Others have to say it. We got people from different walks of life saying something. Nana Chudasama (ex-Sheriff). Adi Godiej, Dr.F.A. Mehta (chairman, Forbes), a principal of a school, a member of a local citizens organisation and these were released as advertisements in newspapers. What they were saving about him was mainly taken by me

from the correspondence in his files. This was a well-rounded campaign, better than attacking rivals

Our politicians do very little and don't keep documented data of what they do. Advertising agencies often take the line of the politician and his mentality - "Usko maaro". If you want to harness the power of advertising, then my approach is more

sensible. The reader knows it is a paid advertisement, so you should talk about your strengths and yourseli.

And, finally, you've got to strongly believe in what you are doing. When someone asked me to do the BIP campaign, I said no. I strongly believe the Congress(I) is good for the country. Lake, I can't sell Cinthol it I don't think it is a good soap.

Trishanku fits the product with the politician

Elections in India are becoming too trequent. The politicians are not happy with ad agencies which, they teen, are not marketing them properly (remember the case of the Congress and Rediffusion campaign of 1987?). The adagencies, which are experts in marketing consumer products, are at a loss as to how to market politicians.

Fortunately, we now have a solution to this problem. It came from the prestigious Indian Institute of Management. Ahmedabad, one of our premier academic institutions. The HM has started a special course. Politician Marketing, and the response hos been electric. Leading ad agencies and commercial irms have deputed their best marketing people to attend the 30 day course for which the fee is Rs 50 000.

The course consists mainly of group discussions among the faculty and the participants. Ideas are freely tossed around and the discussion becomes heated at times. Let's watch one of the sessions. 'F stands for faculty and 'P' for the participants.

F: The personality of the ad agency should reflect the personality of the politicians it markets. For instance, Lintas is the ideal agency for the BJP and L.K. Advani

P: Why

F: Well, the BJP platform revolves around Ram, a God. The Lintas staff call their chief. Alvque Padamsee, God. Do vou see the link?

P: A subtle point which we shall bear in mind

F: Let's now discuss techniques if we can use commercial products to market politicians. Shall we begin with Rapy Gandh.

P: We can market him through a liberal projection of toilet soaps. I mean, the 'Mr Clean' image and all that

P: Hey, that's old hat. The strategy would boomerang. Rajiv is not Mr Clean any more and everyone knows that

F: Think again. The marketing technique can be tricky

P: I got it 'Stability does the trick Make use of the stonehenges, the redwood trees of California, the Pyramids of Egypt,

in fact anything which had been around for a while

Remember the Pyramids,

'Ugly, pretty useless, buffeted by sand storms.

'But it's stable. And so is the Congress.

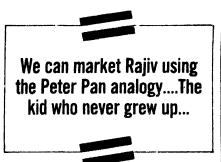
P: We can market Rajiv, using the Peter Pan analogy.

F: The bra

P: No, sir The kid who never crew ap. So is Rajiv. Eternally vontaini, novish. And thinks like a boy.

F: Not bid. Let's now discuss how to market V.P. Singh

P: More difficult because of the 60 40



issue. Agencies may have reservations on the assignment

F: No puns, please,

P: Indians go for nostalgia. Perhaps we can market V.P. Singh as the Raja of Reservations. Or an Olympic addicte

F: How is that'

P: In the Olympics, athletes are shown carrying the holy flame and then lighting the Olympic torch. Now, V.P. has set the entire nation ablaze with his Mandal torch and we can highlight this. Or course no shorts and yest for V.P. Singh, he should be shown running in dhorn, kurta.

F: Pretty good, Now, Devi Lal.

P: Use symbols to market him. A huge cave, for instance

F: What for?

P: The Great Rural Mouth, Inside depict some cows and buffaloes and, of course, Chautela. The cave can also stand for Haryana, or better still, rural India. A bit like Pritish Nandy's paintings.

F: We can go easy on Devi Lal as he is not contesting the polls. What about the Prime Minister?

There is a long pauser.

P: There is something Biblical about him. The padvatar becoming the PM, the culmination of the Pilgrim's Progress. And in this case, it can even be the caretaker's progress.

P: ! am thinking of Moses leading the flock

P: A slightly different version of the Ten-Commandments—The followers have broken every single one of them. Sanjay Singh and adultery. Subranamian Swamy and Truth. Also the variety in his flock, tycoons, terrorists, tantriks. The punchline in marketing him can be. 'Here was such a leader, when comes such another.'

P: Hey, listen to this. To me Chandra Shekhar is the Ancient Mariner with the grey stubble and the glittering eye. Why can't we market him thos? And he has several albatrosses round his neck—Devi Lal, Chautala, Sanjay Singh, and so on.

F: Good usea, but too sephisticated for our audience. We should adopt a rural oriented approach in our marketing.

P: We have not marketed Advam.

F: Leave him alone—The RSS, the Vishwa Hindu Pari-had, the Bajrang Dal and their mends are doing a good job. He is the most marketed politician—Over-exposure could only harm him. Suggest something for Jyoti Basu

P: Pseudo lettist, making merry in the fleshpots of the West while presiding over an area of darkness. God of the Marxists Says, "Let there be Darkness" and there is darkness all over the state.

F: Good, good. Now we have very little time. Let's round up trying to market Chiman Patel and Mulayam Singh Yadav. They have become national regional leaders.

P: We can market them like ice cream of electronic equipment. Two-in-one product. Can be tuned on both national and regional frequencies.

F: Well, I'm quite happy with your progress. Class dismissed. ■



Annual Pledges

Every year, March brings in a flurry of activity aimed at alleviating injurious feelings in feminine hearts. International Women's Day is observed on the eighth day of the month aimid speeches, functions, and promises about the advent of the era of equality.

By this time, one would have thought that a special day to mouth mane pledges would no longer be necessary, concern for the woes of women all over the world should have been imbued into the social mainstream. Earmarking a specific date to bemoan their plight simply emphasises the fact that the women's movement is still a long way from its goal: self rehance and liberty remaining a far cry.

Come March 2000, the scene is likely to remain the same, because the sporadic efforts by a few dedicated workers will go waste, as it is doing now, in the face of mass indifference. Only an integrated and continuous effort could spare women from gathering on a certain day every year to underline and share their sense of deprivation We hope the 21st century will prove the turning point and enable the female species to lift their voices in a paean.

Tokyo Tales



When Junko Tabei became the first women to scale the Everest, world attention riveted to Japan, and the feat was considered symbolic of the future of Japanese women. But alas, despite its feminists, who are indeed hard-working, the women in Japan's maledominated society still have a long way to go.

Recently, the government decided to allow women to

be hired by Japan's leading railway companies. But although a pioneer role awaits 10 of the 60 women graduates hired so far, the women will only be able to check tickets on trains operated by the East Japan Railway Company. They will not be permitted to take over all the tasks of their male counterparts; even something as trivial as the opening and closing of doors will be denied them.

Against this backdrop, it hardly comes as a surprise that Japan's most eligible bachelor, Crown Prince Naruhito, should seek a bride who must ideally be a Brooke Shields lookalike but (and herein lies the catch) in keeping with Japanese traditions, not have had former boyfriends in her 25 years. Some hope, that!

Psychedelic Harvest

The Development of Rural Women and Childien, a scheme of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), is creating waves in the southern parts of the country, especially in Periyar district.

Under this project, nearly 60 groups, each comprising 15 to 20 women, are actively engaged in various productive units in the villages of this district, their work ranging from acting as beauticians to making curry powder, collecting spices from the forest and even shoemaking.

In rural Sathyamangalam, for instance, the group acting as beauticians calls itself Disco. The name, curiously, has little to do with any kind of choreographic skill. The Disco women are employed for bridal make-up and decoration of the mandapam. These women are professionally trained and are just as skilled as their urban counterparts. And they charge just as much too (Rs 250 for bridal make-up).

Often, the women turn their hand to tailoring to earn a quick buck. The Disco women are now keen to dabble in video filming since video recording of marriage ceremonies is in hot demand.

According to the collector

of Periyar district, over 10,000 women have reaped from this venture over the last seven years. More than half of these beneficiaries are Harijans, who have thus been able to ensure better living conditions.

In places like Karattupa-



layam, Harijan women, who were formerly agricultural labourers, are now earning something like Rs 20 per day by making shoes and leather bags. The state transport corporations have proved willing buyers but in general, the marketing procedure leaves much to be desired.

All the groups are duly registered and funded by the government of India, the state government and the Unicef. The money helps purchase raw materials and is used as capital for all income-generating schemes. Banks offer loans and individual members are entitled to a subsidy under IRDP norms.

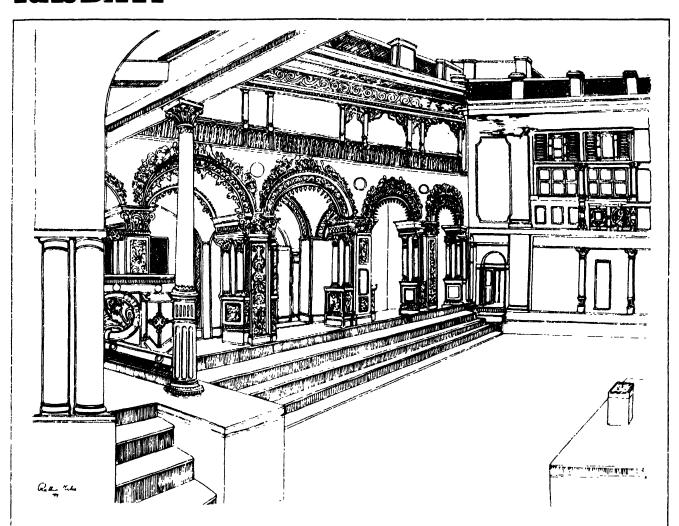
Vocational training is imparted under a scheme called Trysem—Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment. Plans are afoot to launch women's cooperative groups for production of distilled water, battery acid and also for mushroom cultivation, besides opening restaurants with women operaturators. If the sense of wellbeing is anything to go by, it is time other states took up the cue.

Sudipta Bhattacharjee



HERITAGE - Rathin Mitra

THAKURDALAN OF JHAMAPUKUR RAJBATI



The Jhamapukur Rajbati, situated at 1, Jhamapukur Lane in central Calcutta, was established by Digambar Mitra. He was born into the well-known Mandirbati family of Konnagar in 1818 or 1817. His grandfather, Ramchandra Mitra, was a cashier in a merchant firm. He died leaving Rs 50 000 to his three sons, Shibchandra, Sambhuchandra and Rajkrishna Digambar was the son of Shibchandra.

Digambar studied in Hare School and later joined the Hindu College where he was fortunate to have Derozio as

his teacher. He began his career as a teacher in English in a Murshidabad school. Later, he rose to become the district magistrate of Rajshahi (now in Bangladesh). After various odd jobs. Digambar joined the estate of Raja Krishnanath of Cossimbazar on a monthly salary of Rs 100. He later became the estate manager and was rewarded with Rs 1 lakh for his services. He left this job, too, and started his own business in indigo and silk. In 1847, he suffered heavy losses and came back to Calcutta to work in stock dealing through which

he amassed huge property and subsequently became a zamındar.

Digambar held many responsible positions. To name a couple, he was appointed the first Bengali sheriff of Calcutta in 1874 and was the lone Indian representative at the Epidemic Feeder Commission

Basically a conservative man, Digambar opposed widow marriage and antipolygamy movement. He died on April 20, 1879. Of his two grandsons, Manmathanath and Narendranath, the former shifted to his own house in Shyampukur, north Calcutta,

while the latter continued to stay at his ancestral place

The Jhamapukur Raibati was among the better-known buildings of Calcutta in the 19th century. Today, a large portion of it has been sold out and the palace looks totally different from what it was. However, the thakurdalan (courtyard facing the Radha-Krishna temple in the palace) still remains intact and, together with the huge cast iron lion figure. stands reminder to its glorious past. Sri Sri Ramakrishna was a regular visitor to this Radha-Krishna temple.

INNER EYE Dejan Daruwalla

RIES

March 21 - April 20 The first three days of

the week will be ideal for romance, finance and luck of the draw Calls, contacts and correspondence are absolutely certain. You will have enough of romance to stop any complaints Finance is in focus and it includes buying, selling and trading Overindulgence could cause health problems Travel is foretold Children, guests and beautification take top priority at home



AURUS

April 21 - May 20 The main trends of

the week are personal equations, home and family. property and prices, and parents and in-laws. In finance, see that money owed to you is returned in time, and also try to repay others on the dot. Love will fly to you on eager wings. Health may pose slight problems towards the weekend The home and family promise kicks and kisses as folks behave contrarily



EMINI

May 21 June 20

Fan out to people and places, and be ready

for opportunities this week Expenses will multiply. A deal can be struck but avoid unnecessary hassles in romance, you will be happily busy Health problems are possible, so a medical check-up will be ideal. Travel only if it is a must and after due reservations precautions



ANCER

June 21-- July 20 Shoot and talk straight, be on the

lookout for opportunities of advancement, socialise and be exceptionally amiable and outgoing Romance includes socialising and entertainment The first three days are excellent for financial matters. There may be some good news towards the weekend Minor health irritations will be overcome. Travel is foreseen now and in the next week as well



E0

July 21-August 21 The week is char-

acterised by hard work, a bit of romance to balance it, and a few health vexations and opposition It will be best to do your duty. Personal problems come to the fore. Encounters and meets lead to romance Contracts, overtime and

an offer to do part-time work af-





















IBRA

Sept 23--Oct 22

While favours may be granted the price-tag to them could be heavy Buying

or selling will be important A change, transfer or at least plenty of movement are likely Romance is not ruled out, but concentrate on finance Money, childbirth and a round of entertainment are promised.



CORPIO

Oct 23--Nov 22

There will be clashes this week and a little

care in relationships is advisable Romance will certainly be your cup of tea. In finance, see that there are no complications; be clear and concise in all that you undertake An old chronic complaint might cause some health problems. Travel if necessary or await others to come to you. The home and family promise a mixed grill as relatives and family members blow hot and cold



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23--- Dec 20

The week's main trends are a job-

switch, a wee bit of speculation, religious rites and functions, cets and projects, and the lure of distant places. At socials and gatherings, your luck will hold. In finance, many commitments and assignments will come your way, so be street smart and ready You will be working on too many fronts, so learn to rest relax and meditate. You could well be impelled to travel



APRICORN

Dec 21-Jan 19 Loans, funds and investments, fused with

a little bit of fun and creativity, make up the week in romance there will be claims laid upon you and you will love superbly. Arthritis, cough and cold may cause trouble, but you do get over these Travel is signified in May. Joint-finance, loans and buying or selling are definitely highlighted. Changes in the home continue in May



QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

The main trends are marriage, romance,

changes on the home, parental and property frontiers-could be of a mixed nature though-and a flurry of excitement in your work Romance promises a big yes to love in finance, close deals clean and fast, leaving no tangles behind The last three days could find you feeling uneasy unless you take adequate health precautions



ISCES

Feb 19-March 20 A job-hop, fanning

out to people or places, children and creativity characterise the week Also expect a promotion in May In romance, the first five days are for a build-up, then consummation. Focus on work and perks, and a possible change are expected in finance. This is the last tough or uneasy week before you are in the clear regarding health. At home the process of change will last till June

BIRTHDAYS

ter office hours are foretold

Work might entail a trip, an im-

portant connection or collabora-

expenses and meets are the

week's main trends Loans and

funds do claim your time. In ro-

mance, secret ties are possible Collaborations, trading, selling.

shopping and import-export are

emphasised in finance. Com-

munication and contacts are also

foreseen in the next 30 days

This week you may have to visit

hospitals and medical research

August 22-Sept 22

Journey, publicity,

ceremony, contacts,

IRGO

April 21

centres

Moon's first quarter: This quarter makes your creativity and romantic impulses flow freely. Jealousy, the green-eyed monster, will show its ugly face. Take your chances, go your way and try to help others as much as you can Hobbies and children give iov.

April 22

Moon trine Mercury. Success is promised, so play it cool and play it right. Any sort of pioneering work or expansion is definitely advisable. The same holds true for romance and housing. Take a shot at anything in life.

April 23

Moon trine Sun: Work with a will and be sure of rewards, say by August or October. The trick is to persevere, as the moon shows a little bit of vacillation and lack of constant application. Children. romance, marriage and changes at home are preordained.

April 24

Moon trine Uranus-Neptune: If you use your imagination and determination, game, set and match are all yours! You will not need to blame the stars now. They are on your side. Ask and it shall be given

April 25

Moon sextile Pluto: This is a powerful formation provided you work on a high pressure level and have the enthusiasm to follow through with a plan, a line of action or a pursuit.

April 26

Moon trine Saturn, square Mars: Both the good and the bad areforetold in massive proportions. You reach new heights and pay the full price. This is a birthyear of changes, twists and turns.

April 27

Moon trine Venus, opposition Mercury. A step at a time is the key to victory. You do not have to rush things. You will have comforts and money. But there will be a strange dissatisfaction and nervousness which, luckily, can be overcome.

THE RUBBER

hy don't Calcutta models make it anywhere?" says the round eyed magazine girl frantically taking notes on the verandah of a well-known Calcutta advertising agency. "Aren't there pretty faces in Calcutta? Why don't you give us a chance?" Visions of Suchitra Sen, Supriya Devi, Aparna Sen floot hopefully in the globes of her eyes. Rankhee, Shamilla Tagore. Legions of golden-skinned Bengali beauties folded into starched white and red.

folded into starched white and red.
"Unprofessional," says the creative director with a decisive atop of the jaw. The visions in the round eyes which with the rapidity of a burst babble...

A shoot is set up and ready. The studio booked. The model? Well, a slight switch. She's being flown in from Bombay. Pictures sent by the Bornbay office model coordinator are all over the place fanning from hand to hand. Sharon, Sherri, Pooja, Mehr... Malavika! Account executives tug their collars, flex their biceps and cultivate a gleam in their eyes. "What time's the shoot? Right, we're coming!" The list of 'comers' comes to about 15. At the same time, a telex hits the office: send the car to the airport with someone to meet her. Arrange a hotel room. She'll want to freshen up. She'll need to rest at least two hours before the shoot. She'll have to catch the Bombay flight, so be done by 5 pm. Show her what you shoot. She's very worried about not looking good.

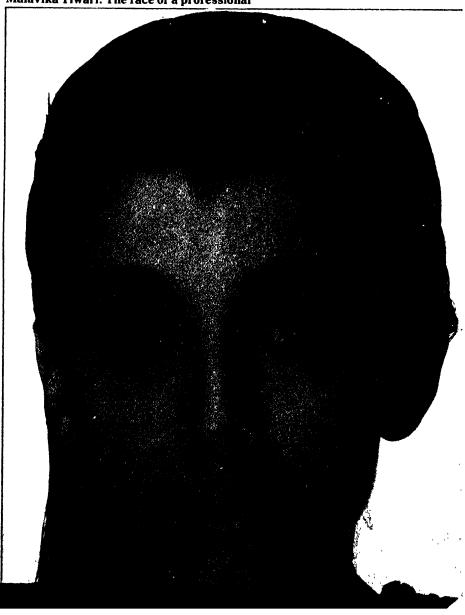
Car. Hotel room. Looking good? Can Calcutta handle Bombay standards of makeup? The photographer promises to be on hand with a New York returned makeup woman who can work wonders with gel and mousse. Cars. Hotel rooms. Looks. Visions of Bombay tantrums impend. The 15 self-invited visitors to the shoot are gently but firmly discouraged with promises of, "We'll wave her by the office once if we can after it's all over" or "We'll try and bring her around once at 9 on the way from the airport. Can you guys be in around 9?"

The car is arranged. It and an account executive are duly despatched to the airport to arrive one-and-a-half hours before the plane lands. When it does land, on time, no one recognises the model. She walks straight through to the car park in jeans, horn-rimmed glasses and a totally unmade-up face. No swish of scarlet lipstick or siren trail of perfume. "I'm used to it," she says later to the account executive's ashen-faced apologies. "A man came to interview me for something or the other. I opened the door. I was wearing Bermudas.... He didn't recognise me. I

What distinguishes the
Bombay model's
professionalism from her
Calcutta counterpart's?
ANJANA BASU meets
Malavika Tiwari on a
shoot, to find out

BAND ISTHE THING

Malavika Tiwari: The face of a professional



told him I was me and he gulped and said, 'But you look so plain!'

"Later, of course, when he wrote the article, he said I opened the door looking as tresh and glowing as a daisy and I was furious with him..."

There is a face with a pronounced widow's peak, hollows under the eyes and a delicately cleft chin that most of India recognises instantly on a page. A face that peers out of prime-time television screens, vulnerable and infinitely fragile. The face that the tabloids said belonged to a good convent educated girl who made it to the top in the big world of Bombay advertising.

This is Malavika Tiwari on the difference between modelling in Calcutta and modelling in Bombay. "It's more disciplined in Bombay... There are a lot of cliques. Photographers have their own preferred models. People said I was one of those because I was living with a photographer... It's easier to be a model if you're living with your parents and someone's taking care of your meals. You spend such a lot of time not working. Running from photographer to photographer hoping for an assignment."

A photo session in progress

Burnout is high, she says, and the returns are not nearly enough when you take into account the fact that you might make a lot of money for five years and nothing at all forever...

The US-returned makeup woman is late. Since the photographer's phone is out of order, he dashed out to make a call. "That's why this city will never do," he grumbles when he returns. "She's gone out and her mother doesn't know when she'll be back and I told her this shoot was on two days ago."

The model offers to start her own makeup rather than waste time. She pulls out a beige rectangle which jack-in-the-boxes into several trays of eyeshadows, blushes, gel, mousse, lipstick and hair colour. "Let's leave my lands out of the shot," she says very matter of factly. "I've got very ugly hands."

The account executive takes the car to go in search of the art director and promptly loses his way. The assistant account executive and the trainee visualiser arrive in varying states of hysteria—which mounts when they discover the absence of the makeup lady. "What'll she think?" they whisper, referring to the

model. The proximity of Bombay is fraying quite a few nerves.

Malavika: "Some of the bigger stars, you know, will charge Rs 1 lakh or more for a day's shooting. And then they'll walk in and throw tantrums and refuse to do what they're told." She mentions a well-known south Indian star who charged Rs 7 lakh for a commercial and then insisted that she wouldn't touch the product. "As if it were going to give her some sort of infection. The only thing they're good about modelling for is Lux because of the image..."

A Goya-esque vision, complete with lace head scarf suddenly materialises out of thin air: the US-trained makeup lady, convinced that the shoot cannot be happening today. "There's this fashion show happening tonight. They're all modelling there—Mehr, Binita. I thought she..." She looks at all the makeup ranged round the dressing room and yanks out her own contribution to the proceedings. The model uses a pancake base. The makeup lady does not believe in it. Eyes lock in the mirror. At this interesting juncture, the agency discreetly tiptoes out of the room.

There are shown where models, their shoulders are small where models, their shoulders are true padded out with sponge so their dothes drape better, loll like mannequins while someone pulls a cotton thread attached to their trousers to make sure the crease is knife-like. This is a pure and simple face shoot without even a pack shot.

a pack shot.

"Oh yes, the pack shot," Malavika laughs and pulls out a story about a client notorious for her tantrums in Bombay. "She had everyone sitting around. So the art director grabbed a waiter without being invited, ordered a double scotch and soda on the rocks and gulped it down fast. Then he looked at the model, Dimple, who was stretched out across the sofa in a leopard print swimsuit and said, 'Let's put the product in her hand'. He promptly got sacked from the account."

The problem is not the pack shot but the hair, in a state of elegant dishevellment. She mousses and unmousses. Gels and ungels. Back brushes, dries and streaks. "I permed my hair at 1.30 last night," the makeup lady contributes sympathetically, rearranging her lace scarf. The model seats herself between the lights. She turns her head and a cascade of hair obscures her features till she looks more like the kiss of the spider woman than anything else.

The account executive finally materialises with the art director, who takes one look at the proceedings and screams for more gel. While the gel is happening, he analyses the model's features part by part. A hollow on the left side of her nose has to be disguised. A line to the right of her



mouth has to be allowed for. Perhaps a filter or two can soften some of the strain showing. "You should have ordered her to rest!" the art director storms.

"If you take modelling careers, mine hasn't been exactly ideal. There were nine months when I wasn't doing anything at all." Some of the tabloids even said she's lost it. the famous fragile freshness. Then she came back again, into the TV film circuit.

"Now I recognise the face," the account executive says, looking at the makeup. "When she walked in at the airport, I thought something was wrong. I heard someone say, 'There goes Malavika' and I said, 'Where?"

The art director demands glycerine and gets it. He takes a lethal-looking threepronged comb and pitchforks hair over her face while she practises sultry come-hither looks, trying hard not to blink. Then he gets a plant spray and squirts her with a fine mesh of water. The glycerine gets into her eyes and the water drips off the end of her nose like a bad case of the sniffles, "Such a perfect face," the makeup woman cooes. "Now the real challenge is when you make an ugly woman look beautiful. Like there was this other girl who but no eyes at all...

She wraps her lace scant even tighter around her head to keep her perm in order.

The shot takes half-an-hour. Getting the hair right takes two, and that doesn't even take into account the time spent with

the hair dryer.

It's the makeup box that distinguishes the professional model from the pretend one. A lipstick for every light, a hair grip for every occasion and a never-ending source of rubber bands. The photographer sighs and says that Calcutta models never

have enough rubber bands.

Malavika denies being a typical Bombay model. There is a group who hang together, bitch and go to discos. "I've got to take care of my house. And that makes the choice very simple. You can either go discoing or get people to come home for dinner." Unlike other models, she has a hobby which she would like to take seriously if she has the time: photography. "I'm all right with people. But you can't be a photographer and just shoot people. I'd like to train under someone, but I can't live on a trainee photographer's pay.

As for films, she would much rather stay on TV and not get into the Amitabhji, Mithunji, Dimpleji scene. Mind you, she has been in a film. And so, she talks about the time she was in Octopussy. "A Delhi model coordinator got some of us together. I was straight out of college and getting eight g's seemed like a dreamuntil I discovered the girls hired from Bombay were getting 18 g's.

Sherri Meher-Homji: Another popular Bombay model

"Anyway, there we were, all these girls from Bombay and Delhi. They put us into these Amrapalli style clothes and made us row the royal barge. One, two, three, whump! One, two, three, whump. It was one shot, you barely saw anybody. Then they made us lie around in bikinis while Bond passed about 20 feet away...

The client flickers through the studio, asks the model to pout once, takes a look at a Polaroid to see whether the effect is right, then leaves. Very little is visible except for people anxiously dabbing at hair with green blobs of gel and it looks far too unglamorous to be true. "I think you're having fun at my expense," the model says and vamps a sexy grimace for no reason at all. "When's that flight?" asks the art director. "We have to move fast. No, she cannot rest. If she rests, she'll miss the flight.

Some of the strain even shows through the filter and the amber lights. The makeup woman suggests a highlight on the nose and frets about the four models she has to get ready for the show in the evening. Even though shows are far less demanding than this close photography. Malavika raises an evebrow and her forehead crinkles. The shot has to be redone. Archness had better be confined to the

lips. Take a deep breath and think, comeand-get-me.

"All my friends go to exotic places like Mauritius or Singapore. Me, I usually end up in Madras or Calcutta or Bhopal. I've done it once in Bahrain and that was almost like doing it in India because the copywriters and art people were Indians and so was the photographer. I've never tried Europe and as for the US, there are work permit problems. Also you either have to be very American or very very exotic. And you have to fit into American size clothes. They'd take one look at me and they wouldn't let me in!"

At 4.30, with the abruptness of a miracle, everything is over. The photographer leaves for a meeting, the art director vanishes, the makeup lady scatters her visiting cards lavishly, then disappears into a taxo. All that's left to do is to see the model back onto her flight and promise to telex her the moment the transparencies

arrive and are approved.

"Now that's professional," the creative director says, and doesn't mean the agency. But the crowning comment comes a day later from another harassed agency person hunting for a model in Calcutta. "Tumi Malavika key shoot korley? Mama, kee jhinchak byapar! (You shot Malavika? Wow, what glamour stuff!)" ■

EXTRACT



India in

The history of the sub-conti

An Indian Dancing Girl with a Hookah

Tilly Kettle, 1772

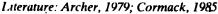
Oil on canvas, 193 x 119 (76 x 47)

Inscribed: Kettle Pinxit 1772 on base of column to

right

Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

he Awadh Court, which moved from Faizabad to Lucknow and back, soon gained a reputation as the most luxurious and refined of the late Mughal courts. It attracted soldiers, administrators, learned men and artists from the declining centres of Delhi and Agra. After the signing of the subsidiary alliance with the Company in 1765 a wealthy group of British and European merchants, soldiers and officials also arrived, luxuriating in what became known as the 'silver age' culture. Temple dancing by girls given to the gods (devdasis) was common in the south where Tilly Kettle had first worked. But dances in the fluid north Indian style, Bharata Natyam, were a favourite entertainment for the Mughal aristocracy and proved of particular fascination to European travellers in search of the exotic. Dancing girls often achieved considerable celebrity and even power. They were often literate and made their way as courtesans, or even wives of notables. Until the final collapse of the court culture in 1856, some celebrated women presided over salons at which poets and literati would air their works.





The Composition Piece, a capriccio of Indian architecture

Thomas Daniell, 1799
Oil on canvas (private collection)

The most famous British landscape painters to visit India were undoubtedly Thomas Daniell and his nephew William. They landed at Calcutta early in 1786, and in the course of the next seven-and-a-half years travelled extensively in the subcontinent.

After a tour in the south in 1792—visiting temples and the hill-forts that had featured in the recent war against

the Rai

as told through illustrations

Tipu Sultan—the Daniells visited Bombay. There they joined the artist James Wales in his explorations of the rock-cut temples of the region. After Wales' premature death in 1795, they used his sketches to produce a series of aquatint views of the temples of Ellora.

The attraction of these temples for Wales and the Daniells was not just their strange and exotic aspects, nor only their Arcadian setting. As is evident from the aquatints, the artists had a serious archaelogical interest too. The plates were intended to appeal to the scholarly as well as the aesthetic impulses of the connoisseurs, to offer them a thorough and exact source-book on early Hindu architecture. The same spirit pervades most of the Daniells' work. Their numerous oils and the magnificent aquatints of the six volumes of Oriental Scenery (published after their return home, between 1795 and 1808) constitute a detailed record of many aspects of Indian architectural history.

Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi

Unknown artist, Kalighat, c. 1890 Watercolour and silver on paper, 43.5 x 27.5 (17 x *10.75)*

India Office Library and Records (Add. Or. 1896)

he Rani of Jhansi, India's 'Joan of Arc', became an embodiment of female resistance and sacrifice in the service of the nation. Jhansi was a Maratha state, set in the midst of a countryside controlled by Bundela Rajputs. In 1817 the Peshwa ceded all rights over the Bundelkhand area to the British Government, but the little state continued to exist until 1853 when the incumbent Raja died childless. Under Dalhousie's 'doctrine of lapse', the kingdom then escheated to the Company; but this was contested by his widow, the Rani, and by Indian custom which allowed the royal family to adopt an heir. The Rani appealed, in vain, to the Company and her plaints were given an edge by popular hostility to changes wrought by the increased British presence, particularly by the slaughter of sacred cattle. In the summer of 1857 mutinies broke out at both Jhansi and nearby Gwalior, one of the key fortresses of central India, and soon much of the country was up in arms. The Rani, fighting alongside Tantia Topi, valiantly defended both cities but was killed in action near



the Phul Bagh cantonement at Gwalior in June 1858. The British Political Agent recorded that she was overtaken resting and drinking sherbet near the Phul Bagh batteries All but fifteen of the rebels escaped but 'The Ranee's horse refused to leap the canal, when she received a shot in the side and then a sabre cut on the head, but rode off She soon after fell dead and was burnt in a garden close The rebels were deeply dispirited by the Rani's death (cited Rizvi and Bhargava 1959, iii, pp. 462-3)

As the Kalighat painting shows, the Rani quickly be came a cult heroine. She combined the female power of the active goddess (shakti) with the virtue of self-sacrifice associated with the medieval Raiput heroines who committed sati after defeat. Indian nationalists quickly took her up as a symbol of armed resistance to British rule even though her own motives appear to have been patriotic defence of her dynasty's honour rather than any clear concept of Indian nationality. During the so called extremist phase of Indian political activity from 1905 to 1910 her image was taken out on floats during the Ramlila lestival to the irritation of the British police

Literature Savarkai 1909



The Emporium of Taylor & Co. in Calcutta

Sir Charles D'Ovly, c 1825-8 *Watercolour, 18 1 x 23 (7 x 9)* The Trustees of Victoria and Albert Museum London (IS-1-1980)

s the number of British women in India gic w during the nineteenth century so shopping facilities improved with the opening of large warehouses which operated along European lines and stocked a wide range of highly coveted I rench and Finglish items including silver urns strings of pearls, hunting saddles, toys and preserves Instead of sending their servants to the local bazaar where goods were generally comparable and much cheap cr. ladies preferred to shop in person, accompanied by their gentlemen and this soon became a popular pastime Here, D Oyly depicts a group of British men and women wearing the day dress fashionable around 1818-28 and admiring the merchandise in Taylor's Emporium a well known Calcutta store which he also described in detail in his satifical poem. Iom Raw the Griffin written in 1824

The rooms themselves, as designated prove I according long - two hundred feet or more And as in India colonnades we love A row of pillars cut their very core Of every tasteful article a store On tables heaped reveal their varied charms Porcelain from I rance and England glittering o er With gold and flowered patte ns (1-1873) And from the ceilings drop stupendous lustres And grandoles and chandeliers, that vie With wall shades stuck around in sparkling

clusters (1 1887)
This illustration was omitted from the published version of the poem
Interature D Oyly 1828 Roberts 1835 M and W G Archer 1955

James Prinsep's Memorial, Calcutta

William Prinsep, c 1859 Oil on canvas, 62 2 x 106 7 (24 5 x 42) Spink & Son I td

This view in Calcutta shows the stately lonic pavilion erected as a memorial to the Orientalist scholar James Prinsep (1799-1840). He was one of the eight sons of John Prinsep a dealer in indigo in Calcutta in the 1770s and 1780s, and like most of his brothers he also worked in India. His first important post was as Assay Master of the Mint in Benaies (1820-30), and living there encouraged his interest in antiquities. He made for example, a detailed survey of the city's temples and repaired the minarets of Aurangzeb's mosque. He was also a specialist in numismatics and early Indian languages. In 1838 he deciphered the Brithmi script—the script used in the Asokan edicts—and so provided the key to important mysteries of early Indian history.

I ike some of his brothers. James was a gifted amateur artist, though the most accomplished among them in this pursuit was William. William's oil shows his brother's memorial in its original setting, at Prinsep's Chat on the banks of the River Hughly near Fort William. The en vironment has since changed considerably though the building still stands.

Sir Charles James Napier (1782-1853)

Attributed to Samuel Smart, 1840s (*) Oil on canvas, 35 3 x 28 9 (13 9 x 11 3) National Portrait Gallery, London (3964)

apier (1782-1853) went to India for the first time in 1841, after a distinguished career in the British army. In 1842 he deployed the force that he was moving up to Afghanistan to subjugate the territory of the Amirs of Sind. His campaign ended in annexation in 1843. Napier remained in Sind to establish a new British administration in spite of considerable criticism of the conquest in Britain. He left India in 1847 but was recalled for the last stage of the second Sikh war.

The authorship of this portrait has not been firmly established (Ormond 1973)

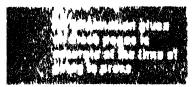
Literature Holland n d., 111 p. 28 I ambrick 1952, Ormond 1973, 1, p. 333, no. 3964, ii. pl. 656

Extracted from An Illustrated History of Modern India (1600 1947) general editor C A Bayly sponsored by Pearson, published by Oxford University Press 1991, Rs 1250





7 DAYS



REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Ajooba Paradise (Bentinck Street 285442) Mijestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Roid 12266) Grace (Mahatina Gindhi Roid 391090) Krishni (I C. Dutta Street 250437) Lilkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street 552270) Khanna (APC Road 552932) Jigat (AFC Koad 365108) Indira (Indira Roy Road 471757) Menoka (Sarat Chitter jee Avenue 410417) Mardhub in (Regent Park)

A film by Shashi Kapoor starring Amitabh Bachchan Rishi Kapoor Dimple Kapadha Sonam Shammi Kapoor and Amrish Puri The music is by Laxmikant Pvarcial



A scene from Critters

• Sanam Bewafa Lotus (S N Baneriee Road 242664) 4 shows

A box office but this film on teenage love stars Salman Khan and debutante Chandm It is

directed by Saaw in Kumm and the music is by Mahesh Ki hor

• Shikari Jyoti (Lenn Sirim 241132) Gem (AJC Bose Road 249828) Naz (Lewer Chitpur Road 277273) Moonlight (T (Dutta Street (254956) Bin a (Bidhan Sarani (11522) Purnas rcc (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033) Basusiee (S P Mukher jee Road 484808) Malancha (Re gent Park)

Mithun Chakriborty Niseerud din Shah Varsha Usgaonkar Natisha ind Amrish Puri ni the chief attractions in this film directed by Umesh Mehra. The music is by Annu Malik

Bengali Films

• Beder Meye Josna Rupbari (Bidhan Sarani 553413) Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road 359561) Bhinati (S.P. Mukherjee Road 174686) 1 4 7

One of the recent by hits the Bingladesh production stars Chumpeet and Anju Ghosh. Others in the cast are Safuddin Dildar Nasir Khan Abbas Soma Anamak Subhendu Arnamath and Bulbul. The film is due ted by Matiyur Rehman Lanu and the music is by Abu Laher.

• Bidhir Bidhan Dirpina (Bidhin Sirani 558080) Purna (SP Mukherjee Kom 4456)



7 DAYS

2.30, 5.30, 8.15,

Arun Govil, Satabdı Roy, Ranjıt Mullick, Sumitra Mukherjee, Be-joy Mchantv, Mohan Choti, Sangeeta Das, Papia Adhikari and Tapas Paul comprise the main cast. The film is directed by Mohammed Mohsin and the music is by Akshay Mohanty.

Katha Dilam: Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045) - 2.30, 5.30, 8 15.

Directed by Rajat Das and with music by Ajoy Das, the cast in cludes Prasenjit, Avesha, Shakuntala Barua, Soumitra Baneriee and Sukhen Das

• Mahaprithivi: Mınar (Bıdhan Saranı, 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road, 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740) 3, 5 45 8 15

A Mrinal Sen film, starring Victor Banerjee, Soumitra Chatterjee, Geeta Sen, Anjan Dutt, Anusua Majumdat and Aparna Sen

Special Events

21 April: 6.30 pm

In collaboration with the USIS,

Stagecraft presents Harvey-a comedy play in three acts, directed by Rohit Pombra. The cast includes Shahni David, Meenu Gaur, Mithu Hirji, Steve Gomez, David Atkins, Chrys Didier 'Serre, Helen Gasper, Ashish Sood, Neil Mukherjee and Rohit Pombra.

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria Street).

22 April onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm

Spectrum Artists Circle will hold a week-long exhibition of paintings in the New South and South gal-

23 April onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm A week-long exhibition of paint-

ings by Susanta Ghosh in the West

- A week-long exhibition of Mri tunjoy Chakraborty's paintings in the Central Gallery
- A week-long exhibition of photographs by Kushai Gangopadhyay and Soumitra Dutta in the North Gallery.
- A week-long exhibition of paint ings by the students of Sangeet

'Shyamala in the New Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302)

23 April: 6.30 pm

Anya Theatre presents Prosce nium's Hindi play, Baki Itihas written by Badal Sircar and directed by Sheo Jhunjhunwala

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 284302).

24 April: 6 pm

An evening of cultural programmes in memory of VI Lenin, organised by Moitiee, Natham Kalakshetra and the cultural department of the USSR consulate general in Calcutta, features an Ödissi recital by Bipasha Dutta, Bharata Natvam recital by Khagendra Nath Barmar of Kalak shetra

At Gorky Sadan (3 Gorky Terrace, 172791-54071

25 April: 6 pm

As part of Ahana's fifth annual function and in aid of Thakurpukur Cancer Centre and Weltare Home. Pancham Vaidic will stage Saoli Mitra's Naathabati Anaathabat

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road; 289978)

26 April: 7 pm

Lavanya presents Mailichintani - -choreographic unnovation in Manipuri dance technique by Priti and Sruti At G.D. Birla Subhagar (29)

Ashutosh Choudhury Avenue; 4797171

27 April: 6.30 pm

Anamika presents the Hindi comedy play. Barr Buan, based on Badal Sucar's original Bengah script and translated by Dr Pratibha Agarwal Directed by Bimal Eath, the cast includes Vinita kellin, Ajay Chaturwedi, Yogesh Suri, Anna Bhattachar, a, Laxim Prasad, Aus Mishra Dmesh Hakkar and Adm Sucar

At Kala Mandir [Basement] (Shakespeare Sarani, 440086).

27 April: 6.30 pm

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This

is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised

to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines

in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office)

Padatik Dance Circle presents a Kathakalı recital by Dr. Mahua Mukhenee

At Padatik Little Theatre 6.7 AJC Bose Road, 476087)

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230 Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5) Al-306 at 1915,

Dep (5) Al-306 at 2020 Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) Al-309 at 1910. Dep (6) Al-309 at 2025

London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (7) Al-132/1328 at 1230 * Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr

(4) SU-537 at 1525 Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow:

Dep (4) SU-538 at 1725 Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanol: Arr (2) SU-541 at 0640; Dep (2) SU-541 at 0750 Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-

Tashkent-Moscow: Arr (2) SU-542 at 1615, Dep (2) SU-542 at 1815

Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4) RJ-184 at 0645

Calcutta-Amman: Dep (5) RJ-185 at 0530

+ Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (1) RO-063 at 1115, Arr (6) RO-063 at 1045 Dep (1) RO-063 at 1230, Dep (6) RO-063 at 1200 · Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest: Arr (1, 6) RO-064 at 2015, Dep (1, 6) RO-064 at 2130

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4) SQ-420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-420 at

Calcutta-Bangkok Dep (2, 4, 7)

iC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6) TG 314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-732 at 1500; Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (2 4, 7) IC-747 at 1600, Dep (1, 5) RA-214 at 1455

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr (2. 4. 7). IC-748 at 1930, Arr (1, 5) RA-213 at 1355

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (3, 6) IC-723 at 1340, Dep (daily) BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935 Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (3, 6) IC-

724 at 1600, Arr (daily) BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855 Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5)

BG-698 at 1950 Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5)

BG-697 at 1910 Calcutta-Paro: Dep (2) KB-106

at 0900, Arr (2) KB-105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230 Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Al-1328

at 1230

Indian Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700. Arr (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily): IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850; Arr. (daily) IC-175 at 0750 and IC- 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

274 at 1850 Calcutta-Madras: Dep (daily) IC-765 at 1700, Arr (daily) IC-766

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-771 at 0610, Arr (daily) IC-772

Deihi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1545

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi. Dep (daily) IC-410 at 0615

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-729 at 0800, Arr (daily) IC 230 at 1630, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily). IC-743 at 1330. Dep (3. 5, 6, 7). IC-241 at 0700, Dep (1, 2, 4) IC-241 at 0700; Arr (daily) IC-744 at 1600, Arr (3, 5, 6, 7) IC-242 at 1350, Arr (1, 2, 4) IC-242 at 0900 Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0530 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0530, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1000

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 1400, Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1730

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily)

IC-221 at 1100, Arr (daily) IC-222 at 1320

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 7) IC-213 at 0600 Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 7) IC-213 at 0955

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal. Dep (daily) IC-255 at 1950, Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1530

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (1. 2, 4, 7) IC-269 at 1650, Arr (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6). IC-269. at 1650, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC 270 at 2040

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-219 at 0840 Arr (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-220 at 1320 Calcutta-Hyderabad Dep (1, 2, 7) IC-277 at 1745. Arr (1, 2, 7) IC-278 at 2215

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-542 at 0700, Arr (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-541 at 0915

Calcutta-Imphai: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-259 at 1330, Arr (2, 4 6) IC-260 at 1610

Calcutta-Agartala-Kallasahar: Dep (2-4) PF-729 at 0930 Arr (2, 4) PF-730 at 1330

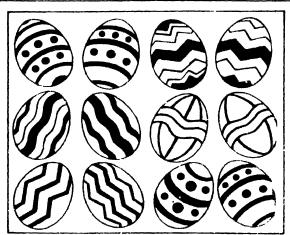
^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Shaŋah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta - No traffic rights on Calcutta B argket-Calcutta

7 DAYS

 Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar:
 Dep (7)
 PF 708 at 1150
 5)
 PF-706A at 1615
 (1)
 3, 5, 6)
 PF-701 at 0930, Arr (1, 3, 5)
 Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawl:
 Dep (2, 4, 6, 7)
 Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawl:
 Dep (1, 3, 5)
 PF-705 at 0855, Dep (1, 3, 5)
 PF-705 at 1220, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
 PF-717 at 0600, Arr (1, 3, 5)
 Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong-Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong.
 Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong.
 Calcutta-A

Departure EASTERN RAILWA		EASTERN RAILWAY	Y Arrival		Departure		SOUTH-EASTERN	Arr	ival
Jp	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn			RAILWAY	~!!	
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1003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Madras Mail	7-00	600
381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8-00	800
		press via Gaya-Varanasi			2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	285
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat			8034	20.20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	803
		ArrWed Fri & Sun			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	802
303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex- press via Patna	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Express	11-50	284
		Dep-Mon Wed. Fri & Sun Arr-Mon Tues Thurs & Sat			2611	22-35	Bangaiore Express DepTues	13-45	261
301	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	1		ArrSun		
		week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	801
		Dep-Mon Tues Thurs Fri &			8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	801
		Sun			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	800
		Arr—Tues Wed Thurs Sat. &			8015				
		Sun				21-40	Ranchi Hatla Express	6-05	801
373	23-00		11.10	2274	8007	22-00	Purl Express Via Cuttack	5-30	800
313	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkly	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via Naraj	7-45	841
547	13-15	Dep—Tues Fri & Sat Arr—Tues Wed & Sat Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4.15	2548	2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Express	21-20	282
∽ ,	13-13	press (Goraknpur) Ex-	4-15	£046	8079	23-20	Tirupati Express	4-15	808
		Dep—Mon & Thurs Arr.—Thurs & Mon			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex- press	14-55	804
^^	20.05		7 00	2012	8017	16-45	Purulia Express	11-20	801
009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-20	3010			Dep—Except Saturday ArrExcept Sunday		
007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	_
049	13-05	Amritsar Express	15-45	3050	Ì		Monday only		
011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012		14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	260
039	20-55	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-30	3040			 Guwahati Express Saturday only 		
019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	-	14 10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	264
021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	i		Guwahati Weekly Express		
557	6-00	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	:		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660	İ		Thursday only		
317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	
029	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030	2000	EL-03	Terminus Weekly Express	26"10	
035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036	İ				
031	21-00	Danapur Express			1		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
031 025	23-00		6-35	3032			Saturday only		. .
ひとむ	23-00	North Bihar Express DepWednesday ArrFriday	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Superfast Express (via	13-45	265
071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6 00	2070			Visakhapatnam & Madras)		
., ·	££-03		6-00	3072	1		Dep—Fr: & Sun		
		Dep—Tues Thurs & Sat			1		Arr-Tues & Fri		
		Arr—Mon. Thurs & Sat			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	_
015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016			Weekly Express (via Howrah		
159	15-25	Chambal (Gwallor) Tri-	7 30	2160	i		& Cuttack)		
		weekly Superfast Express			-		Wednesday only		
		Dep-Thurs. Sat & Sun			1	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	267
		Arr-Tues. Wed. & Thurs					Weekly Express (via Howrah	.5 70	_0/
171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express	7-30	1172	1		& Cuttack)		
		Dep-Tues & Wed	. 50		1		Monday only		
		Arr—Sat. & Sun			2610	22.25		22.15	
327	15-25		7.00	2200	2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	
·• ·	13-23	Shaktipunj (Chopen) Ex- press Dep & Arr—Mon. & Fri	7-30	3328			minus Weekly Express (via Howrah) Thursday only		
)49	22-25	Gorakhpur Express	10-40	EDEO	1	44 40		10 15	000
0	er-63	Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patna Weekly Express (via Howrah)	13-45	260
. 40	40.00	Sealdah					Wednesday only		
143	19-00	Derjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	1				
153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154					
151	11-20	Jammu-Ťawi Express	16-30	3152			r round the clock information of		
133	20-45	Mughal Saral Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	all oth	er Inforn	ial 203545-54 for in-coming train mation. For information about	reservation	ona o
103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104	Easter	n and So	uth Eastern Railways treins, dis	203500	(from
85	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186		9 pm on ad holida	weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm	on Sunda	ys an

JUNIOR WHIRL - Hal Kaufman



PAIR GAME! Two of the dozen Easter egg designs above ere enough alike to be twins. Point these two out, if you can

 SERIES BIZ! Using plus and minus signs only, arrange digits 1.9 in reverse order so that the result is a total of 100. Hint. Start with 98.

ejgissod

BIG VARIO STRANSING WHICH IN THE WASHINGTON TO THE HOUSE THE TOTAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY



SPRING POSY POSERI

Names of two flowers are hidden in this verse hiddle poser. How quickly can you find them."

From the first of my first comes the first of my second 'Twixt the next of my second and the next of my first there's

often a slip
—So sages have reckones
Of my first and my second both
wholes may be seen,

Uncommonly common up on the spring scene.

Can you puzzle out the two flower.

into the lightly sweet on logic behalf the week

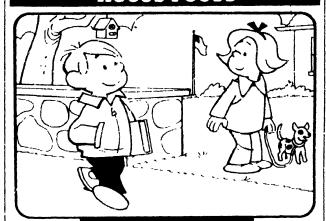
• SIX PACK! Study the arrangement of numbers 1-6 in the diagram below. Then see is you can determine how many different ways you can proceed from 1 to 6 in order, moving to adjacent digits, left to right, right to left, up or down

P.S. Count carefully, to include all possibilities. Don't stop at 40

and the told and Applied for the Office

1	2	3 4 5	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	5
3	4	5	456523	5	9 7 3 8 9 7 8 9
4	5	6 5 4	5	2	3
4	6	5	2	1	2
6	5	ч	3	2	1

HOCUS-FOCUS





CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom pinels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Difference: 1, Birdhouse le missing. 2 Jacien le opened 3, Flagpole le missing.

FUNSPOT



JUMP START! You'd jump, too, if someone startled you in your hiding place. Color code. 1—Red 2—Lt. blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk. green

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

GAMESTER

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more tound among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible analgens sidesof

QUIZ 🗆 Neil OBrien

quiz report from M.H. Haider

The Maurice Quiz Contest for Scouts and Guides was held at St Xavier's College Calcutta. Three Guide Companies and Jix Scout Troops participated. The rewas a keen contest throughout especially when it came to questions on scouting. The trophy was annexed by the 21st SPCI (Scout.) followed by the 14tl. St. The mas and Ztri St. Jame. Troop in third plue. N.S. Wadia was the quizmalter.

A Mittra report from Na

The Bengali As occition Nagaor A sam organised a quiz competition a part of its annual cultural festival Altogether 28 pair comprising junior and senior sections took part

Moushumi Gupt cand Mayuri Gohain and In ran Hussain and Must ita Ahmod secured first position in spectively in each of the groups

The quiz was conducted by Prof. K.P. Chowdhury before a sizeable audience

Arindam Chatterjee Calcutta 26 has a couple of questions on brandy



11th Question Apartfrom the conventional seven days wat are Sigmaday Alfaday and Betaday (Indrajit Ghosh Joraghat Lane P O Chinsurah 712101, Dist Hooghly)

JAns In the metric caendar that proposes to measure time in units of 10 days, the week is Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Sigmaday Alfaday Betaday Friday and Saturday

Brandy according to Di Johnson well world turn is the drink for herbes. It was probably digitally developed to medicinal purposes, still a time honoured excuse for drinking to The word brandy is today used to mean a distilled liquor made from finit as opposed to grain and other products. However most brandy similar from grapes A jour J

brandy one of the great after dimer drinks and if wine has been drunk with the meal the drinker does not run therisk of mixing grain with grape—the traditional route tea hangover next ite form

The friest brandy comes from Cignac ir France on the Chae it. A ver just north of Bordeaux. The area round the town of Cognac i

8) Who was known as the mothero' India's revolutionaries? (Arun Kumar Purohit Calcutta 7)
9) One of he longest if not the longest word in the Oxford English Dictionary is Flocenaucinihilipilification. It camprises 29 let lers. What about the meaning? (Debabrat i Sain Dhanbad)
10) Who were Bairistor mers? (Zeenat Afrin Calcutta 16)

QUESTIONS

1) In films what is NC 17'

(Satyabrata Mahapatra

Berhampur 8) 2) The Waterloo Cup is a race for ? (Sheikh Abdur Rab Burdwan 51) 3) Who said and when Did you ask my predeces sor the colour of his tie " (Riazul Afrin Calcutta 14) 4) Which West Indies bats man made a duck in both innings of his debut Test against India in 1983 84? (Ajit Kumar Mahapat a Burl 1) 5) What is Francoise Soray's screen name? (Othello Ma∠oomdaar Boral 5) 6) He was a brilliant French physicist mathematici in and naturalist. He was famous as The Newton of Electricity and coined words like current and galvanometer At one of the meetings in the Insti tute he failed to recognise Napoleon Bonaparte Napoleon taking it in good spirt invited him to the palace for lunch. The next day the emperor was kept waiting He had forgotten the invitation. Who was he? (Suriit Barpanda Bolangir 45) 7) What is Phronemoma nia? (Manoj Kumar Singh

Patratu 43)

ANSWERS

SUJPQ UI DANƏ could gather anaudience quees mueuend queh ers who gave prrform 10) Actors or stolling play worthless 9) Action of estmating as 8) Madam Vikai Cama 7) Abnormal toke for think (9881 2771 6) Andre Marie Ampere 2) Anouk Aimee 4) Richie Richardson as president of the UN ference after her election during her first press con about the colour of her sari When a reporter enquired 3) Mrs Vijaylavmi Pandit 2) Greyhounds DOOWYIIOH III placed the x rating of films 1) It is the rating that re

divided into six regions and the best brandy comes from two of these Grande and Petite Champagne (there is no connection with the sparkling wine)

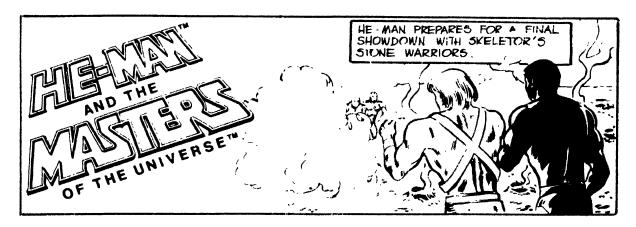
Curiously enough the wine from which cognac is made is poor in quality and it was not until the 17th cen tury that the art of distilling it was discovered Cognacis still made in the old fashioned pot. It is then ma tured in oak casks for two to five years or even longer The oldest are usually called VSOP (Very Special Old Pale Star ratings mear lit tle as the systems vary be tween the distillers. Napo-Iron brancy is another term intended to imply age, which in plantice also means very ittle Most cogn ic are sold elightly diluted and have added sugar and caramel for weethese and colouring

Comac signa rivil to the south of Bordcaux is Armagnac Armagnac by t adition comes in a flask shaped bottle. It is drier in taste than cogna some would say harsher but it has a growing following. Other kinds of grape I randy are mare which is made from the wine of Burgundy grap ra its lictian equivalent and Mciaxa the brandy of Greece Eau de Vic (Water of Life) is simply the French generic term for any kind of prandy

Apart from the grape brandy can be made from nost other kinds of fruit. Cai vados from Normar dy and applejack from the US are both made from apples. Sli vovitz is the lame given to plumi brandy made in Yugos lavia and alsewnere. Kirsch is made from cherrias. Other fruits that are widely made into brandy include blackber ries pears apricots rasp perries and strawberries.

Postscript The Dalhousie Institute - Invitation Ouiz for the Errol Cowper Trophy will be held on May 8 9 and 11 Entry forms available at the DI Entries close on May 3 and draw to be published at the club on May 5

COMICS



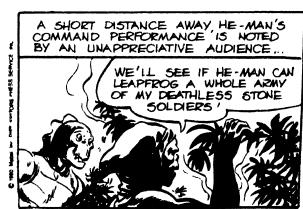












ARCHIE

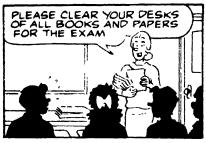














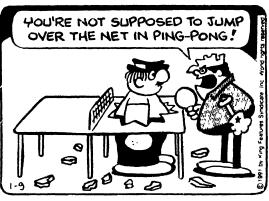




MOOSE MILLER By Bob Weber





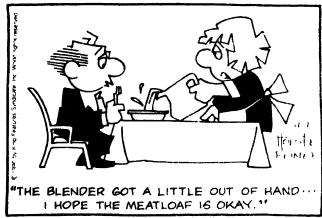


The second





THE LOCKHORNS

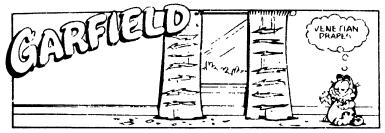








GARFIELD By Jim Davis









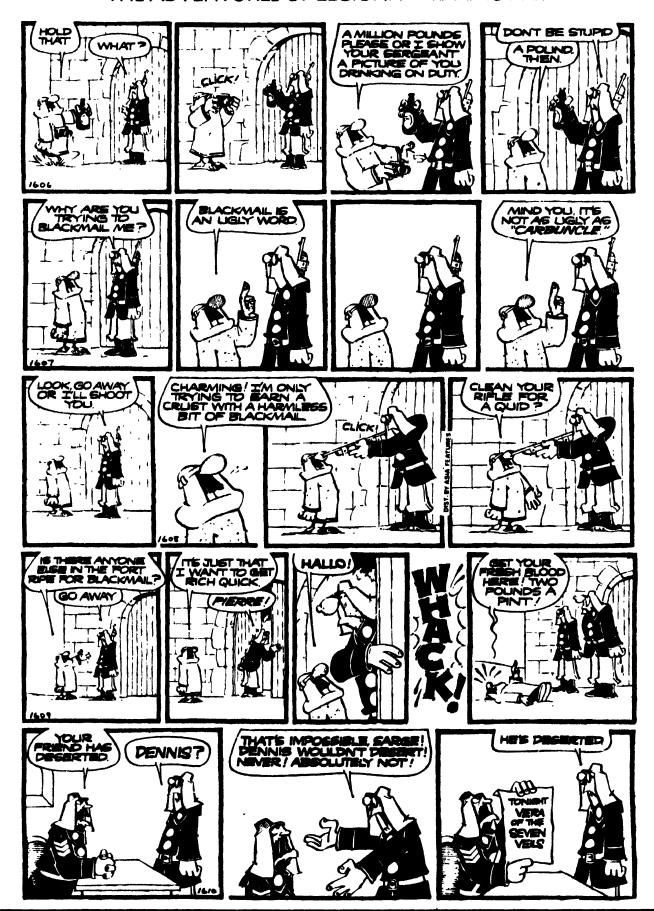








THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP







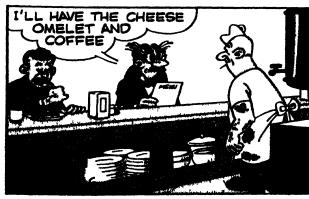












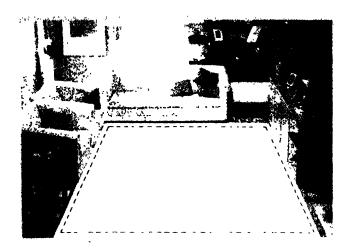
IMAGES



Photograph: Chitrajit Ghosh

ODAY, GIVE EACH OF THESE ROOMS A MATCHING MARBLE FLOOR.

Y TOMORROW, DO THE SAME IN YOUR HOME.



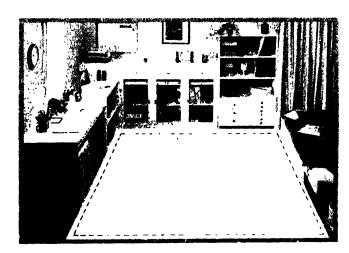
CUI OUT THESE THREE FLOORS MATCH THEM TO THE ROOMS ON THE LEFT, AND STICK THEM WHERE THEY LOOK BEST

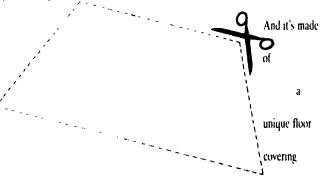
Yes, with Carara, laying down a marble floor in your home is as simple as stacking on the floors in this ad!

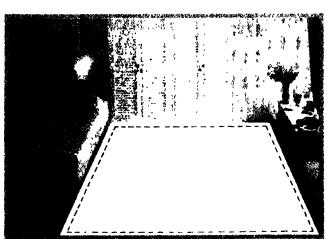
Just get

Carara laid over /

your existing floor. It'll take only a few hours. No mess, no inconvenience







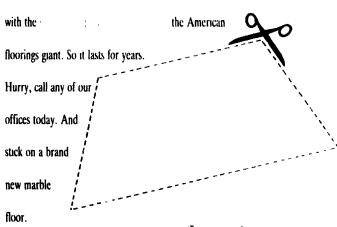
World Industries permit INARCO Ltd, the use of the trademark Armstrong, under licence

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Madras: Ph. 475191, 476596, 479186



BLENDED MARBLE TILES

Justant floor decor

ARE OBSOLETE RADIALS TAKING YOU FOR A RIDE?

All radials are not the same.

When you want the best radial tyre for your car, find out what's under the tread. Steel. Or ordinary textile fabric. Or fibreglass.

Fabric or fibreglass can never match the efficacy of steel. Only steel belted radials enhance the performance of your car. By way of increased fuel efficiency, more mileage and better road grip on any and every kind of road.

That's why 97% of the world rides on steel belted radials.

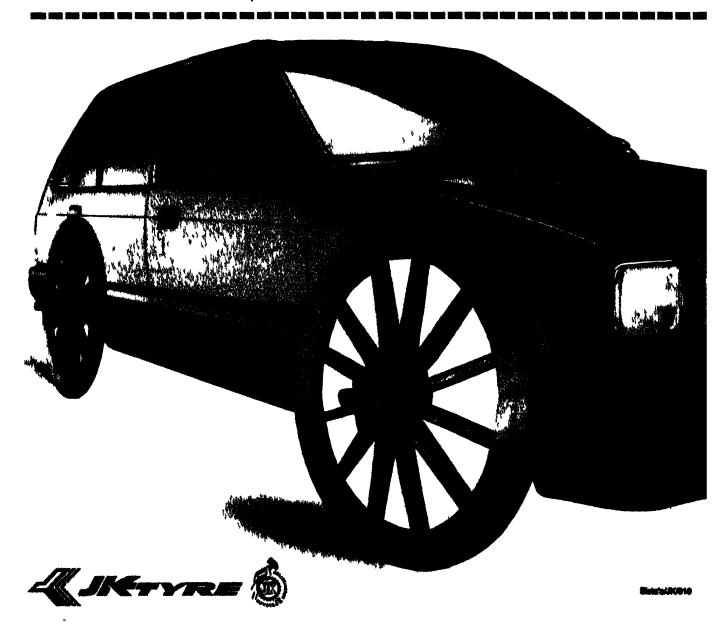
So give your car the advantage of steel. Feel the unmatched power and safety of steel radials

while braking, cornering and driving, even on wet roads.

Switch to the world-class steel radial.
Only from JK.
It's the Real Radial.

Write in to know more about the Real Radial to Mr. S.V. Srinivasan, Radial Club, J.K. Industries Ltd., 3, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110 002

JK STEEL



Mamata's **Posture**

The leading. The Challenge (March 24), suited the posture of Mannata Remeries on the cores so

Extraordinarily simple and modest, with sincerity of purpose, she has earned her present position of popularity. We regret, however, that your story did not assess her activities as a successful MP from

Jadaypur. Keshob Ranjan Biswas,

President, Association of Government Sponsored Refugee Colonies of Be-hala, Calcutta

Candid Feelings

With the irregularity of Candid Camera, our Sundays are incomplete. We days are incomplete, we photograph lovers are feeling very uneasy with the encroachment of other sections on this last page of the Colour Magnitine.
Summan Partial,

What Joy!

The cover story on Donningue Lapierre (I Was CPM's Hery, March 17) was a fitting tribute to the subject of City of Joy as well as a pointed condengation of the critics-turned-booksate of Calcutts.

process any becomest thought the firm and book are thing has come out at the open nows that our least that become that become that become that become the book when hey give Lagierre a hero's pulcount.

Sunset Glow

ears of gracing experi-tion of Me. There was, however, a since critical when the author benignly quipped: "Their daughters are tappily married and sons well settled" and toeing the line of other patriarchs. How can settlement in life be interpreted differently for sons and daughters? Supratik Sengupta. Calcutta

Sounding Off

Your cover story, Voice a New Generation (March 3) was a forewarning to the millions of fans and admirers of Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle. The two nightingules will sooner or later fade away in much the same way their predecessors, Noorjehan, Shamshad Begum, Amirbai Karnatski, Geeta Dutt, Sandhya Mikheise did with



Dand Mobil Astr Ti

dwal and Kumar u will outclass all the others. But those bearing for the Bies of Noorjehan and Late will continue to man the voices of the sider gen-

ration. K. Banyan,

that can only be rendere

Never in the history of the Indian film industry were there so many singers at a time. But no one among them can bring back the magic of the legendary Rafi, Kishore and Mukesh.

To compare Anuradha with Lata is preposterous. She may have proved her supremacy among the pre-sent generation singers but to even think of her as an alternative to Lata is close to blasphemy.

There is an element of truth that Lata is not at her best in her recent songs. but at 61, she can do a Bobby for Raveens Tandon even while she does a brilliant Lekin for the now aging Dimple! Javed Nishat, Calcutta

 Kishore Kumar's son. Amit Kumar, may be a

s and Udit Narayan. le now a veteran sin-dring made his debut n a phlyback ainger way nack in Door Gagan Ri Cabaca Mein Showaniai Bakshi,

The Gardid Corners photo-graph of Fifty Patrick in our April 14 large gravity Aloka

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

28 APRIL 1991

Pollsters, with their uncanny knack of reading the public pulse (sometimes wrongly), are in a vantage position to tell us all about who will fare how and why. Some of the leading ones in the business gaze into their elaborate charts (and crystal balls).



Why is the passion for the Volga changing to anger? A report on the simmering emotions beneath the surface in the Soviet Union today.

A glimpse into the inner world of artist Ashok Bhowmick.

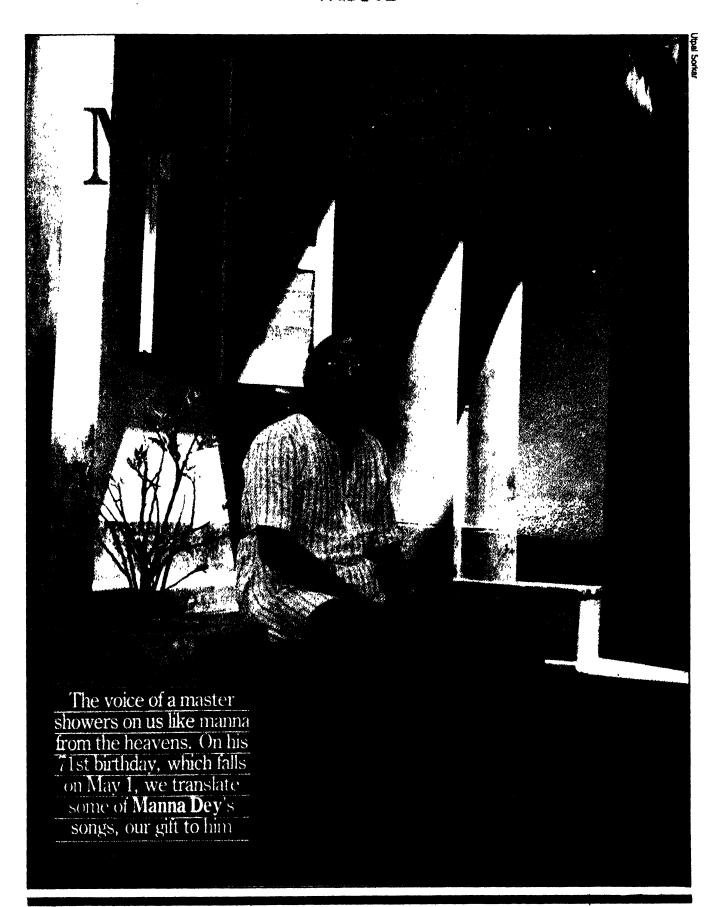
SECTIONS

Tribute Heritage 12 Inner Eve 18 **Event** Leisure 20 7 Days Junior Whirl 24

Quiz 25 **Comics**

30 Candid Camera

TRIBUTE



Jeevan se lambe hain bandhu...

Film: Aashirwad; music Vasant Desai, lyric: Gulzar)

I ager than life my friend
I the path of life
I'm a one nt you half and cr
I ne other is me individe on
I'te word by tweet ready and traveller
is meent
One was set the other tract friend
Described of at the turn
Interpretable of the turn
Interpretable of the turn
Interpretable of the turn
I'm a seed individing hit
I tetally be a sesse to make at dawn
Arritical or produces before its
discontinuation.

Kasme, vaade, pyaar, wafaa, sub...

(Film: *Upkar*; music. Kalyanji-Anandjı; lyrıc: Indivar)

Oath profit less ad affectionall
Are word at word
Nobody's attitled only body
These are more food no more
The rich all be before your
And year with a survey
At the endownall your windle od
Will at me to ou
You will be skies

Will finally mingle with the dust below.

In good tracs, they will walk.

It is not line to he will walk were then ever.

These vardy wre people will be a construction to the it vent he art.

It educes a God Himelt With a second error and other promise. I condittection in the various v

I ranslated by Anil Grover

Ai mere pyaare watan...

1 gething to ny friend

i thep hall

(Film: Kabuliwala, music. Salil Chowdhury, lyric Prem Dhawan)

Or of ved county in Edenica Morat 2008 on to var You reany desire very vhonour And you me my life

i alute the breeze that or el nomination bemi

And I k so that angue that speaks thy

Most be autiful is your norn most spiendid our even

My heart gees out to you

Sometimes you are a mother she art and ling to me

And sometimes a little diaighter and are merostalized

Lie more nost algo I get the rare it iches

My heart goes out to vo $_{
m T}$

Le ving your shores so fur have I come!

If the resemble desire left. I wear by very particle

Where I was been a as I breathe my list there

My he art goes out to you

COVER STORY

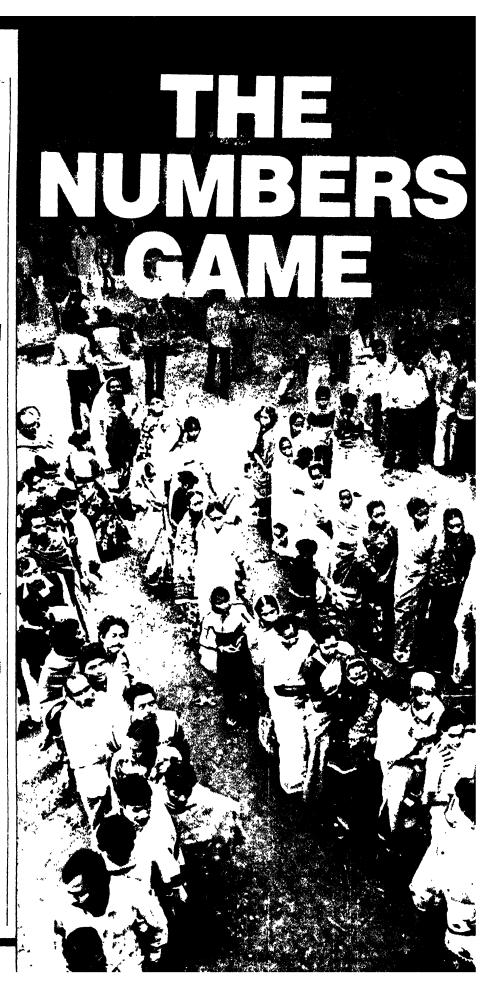
sephology, the formal study of elections, which is four decades old, is in its nascent form in India. Although there have been several efforts to predict elections in the past, the art or the science of psephology got recognition only a few years ago. Prannoy Roy, a former economic adviser in the ministry of finance, and a reader in the Delhi School of Economics, producer and presenter of the popular television serial, The World This Week, and man of many more parts, has been the most successful among the forecasters. He has predicted the 1980 elections and the 1984 elections for India Today and co-authored India Decides, which has become a handbook for all those who are interested in election facts and figures. He is now a familiar face on the small

In any election, the unknown factor is the most intriguing. Formal studies on who will get how many seats, and why, have been going on for decades now. But the psephologist is now the star of the show, with the science gaining great popularity in recent years.

S. Srinivasan and Lekha Rattanani spoke to some of the leading people in the business today

screen and has been doing regular TV commentaries on elections and the annual budgets.

One of the best productions by Roy came in the 1989 elections where he was commissioned along with MARG by India Today to conduct a series of six-monthly opinion polls. Sunday magazine also conducted an opinion poll. Both suggested that there was a sharp slide down in the support for the Congress(I). The Hindu-IMRB was the only one which opined otherwise and predicted a comfortable majority for the Congress(I). The Sunday poll, conducted jointly by MRAS and Surit Bhalla, predicted that the Congress(I) would get 215 seats. Later, Prannov Roy, basing his analysis on the MARG sampling, came out with a result that the







Prannoy Roy, basing his analysis on the MARG sampling, came out with a result that the Congress(I) would plunge below the 200 mark and would get only 195 seats (in 1989). Later, the combine conducted the 'exit poll' for the first time in India....Following his analysis, Roy predicted accurately 193 seats for the Congress(I)

Congress(I) would plunge even below the 200 mark and would get only 195 seats. Later the Prannoy Rox-MARG combine conducted the 'exit poll' for the first time in India. Rox positioned interviewers out side the polling booths, who spoke to the voters as they left the booths. Following his analysis, Roy predicted accurately 193 seats for the Congress(I)

Although Roy and his ilk have begin to receive a lot of attention and respectability, they chemselves feel that it is really very difficult to predict elections. Prannoy Roy, Ashok Kumar Lahiri and David Barler in their book, *India Decides: Elections* 1952 1991, outline the kinds of problems the psephologists face. They describe India as being a difficult country because of its size, linguistic and cultural diversities.

These the psephologists say, stand in the way of "simple, quick and uniform" procedures. The authors say that the electorate itself was very large. In 1989 the Indian electorate reached 495 million which was more than the total number or voters in the United States, the European Community and the Japan combined. This time the electoral size was close to 543 million.

Another factor was illiteracy. The authors say that "75 per cent of these voters

live in villages and a majority of them are illiterate'. Further, "there are 33 languages spoken by at least a million of people Ordy 4o per cent speak Hindi, the most used language. Moreover, the pattern of party conflict varies from state to state. The Indian pollster must envy his colleagues in Britain or France or Australia who can use a single simple monolingual questionnaire," the authors point out.

The poll sampling is another major problem. Ray and others in their book have said that while in Luropean countries poll sampling of the size of 1000 is common, in India this has to be of the aze of 10,000 or more. The sampling work itself needs a lot of legwork as interviews are samply not available ever telephones because of their low densites.

Fo arrive at a final conclusion it would not be possible for the pollsters to conduct opinion polls in all the constituencies as that would be far too expensive and time-consuming. They have to choose representative samples of constituencies which have to be made on the basis of projecting national results. The authors say that "the design of this sampling framework and the selection of constituencies is a complicated

attar"

An important distriction a pollsier is to make is between the fact that an Indian electorate casts his vote differently for the Assembly and Parliament elections. The choice of candidate and the local issues have its impact. Although facts and figures could be gathered in large numbers and crunched to arrive at some analysis or the other, the basic element behind every such exercise remains the sensitive human reality.

Psephologist Dr G. Balachandran believes that an Indian voter is the most complex voter in the world

Compared to him a European or ar American voter would be "just kindergaeten stuff". Perhaps the only comparable voter would be from the Soviet Union or China, but they have never gone to multiparty elections the way India has. While the prediction of Indian elections has always been a tough job, this time the issues involved have made it more difficult. Any one who attempts to predict now would be making a grave inistake, warns for Balachandran. He feels that the situation would be clear only a week before the piling.

Dr. Balachandran refuses to hazard a guess on the trend as there could be many developments that may influence the elections between now and the actual polling nearly a month away. For instance, the Congress (1) has decided that it would make August 15, 1947 as the cut off date for deciding the status quo of all the religious places. The idea of such a promise

was that the Muslims would start switching towards the Congress(I). But it would need a poll itself to decide whether people were influenced by the announcement or not. Dr Balachandran, however, says that no such thing called a "vote bank" exists. According to him, in the 1989 elections the Congress(I) lost 15 per cent of popular votes compared to the 1984 elections. The rate of loss of Muslim and non-Muslim votes was the same. Although it could be argued that the 1984 elections were quite different compared to other elections. Dr Balachandran says this has been true more or less to other elections as well.

Another important factor in Indian elections is that the electorate just does not go by the party alone. The individual candidate does matter. He says, therefore, it is difficult to answer whether Mandal Manda issues will result in en bloc votes. Going by precdents, "it may happen". This is certainty not a physical law, he adds. The psephologist would not arrive at any conclusions on the basis of large crowds attracted by a particular leader in public meetings and rallies. He says a high degree of artificiality is introduced when any prominent leader visits a place. A lot of organisational effort goes into the area and people are obviously curious to see the leader.

Dr Balachandran has analysed three elections for The Hindu. Of these, the Tamil Nadu Assembly predictions have been accurate whereas the analysis for the 1989 general elections were off the mark. Dr Balachandran, 50, who did his engineering degree from Imperial College of London and later his doctorate in economics, has been a development correspondent with The Hindu. In 1984, The Hindu and its newly launched sister publication. Frontline, commissioned him to analyse the Lok Sabha elections. He predicted an overwhelming support for the Congress(l). He had said that in Andhra Pradesh the Telugu Desam would hold its ground and the rest of the country would be swept by the Congress(I). He did not make all India seat predictions at that time. He restricted his work to the analysis and study of voting patterns. In 1989, he analysed the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. He feels that the situation at the Centre was now akin to what was in the state that time The Congress(I), the DMK, the AIADMK (Jayalahtha) and AIADM (Janaki) were in the fray in the Assembly elections just as now the Congress(I), BJP, Janata Dal(S) and Janata Dal



An important factor in Indian elections is that the electorate just does not go by the party alone, according to Dr G. Balachandran. The individual candidate does matter. He says, therefore, it is difficult to answer whether Mandal/Mandir issues will result in en bloc votes

or National Front would be facing four-cornered contests

The psephologist had predicted that the DMK and its alliances would get a majority and forge a government. He had predicted 270 seats and the results were almost accurate. Others had said that there would be hung Assembly in Tamil Nadu Soon after Dr Balachandran did the Lok Sabha elections for The Hindu in 1989. He predicted 250 seats for the Congress(I), but the party could get only 195 seats. Dr Balachandran says possibly there were two kinds of errors. Either his analysis was wrong or the poll sampling was not properly done. He says that with the same kind of inputs, he could not have had arrived at different analyses. Di Balachan dran has a point here. While in the Tamii Nadu Assembly elections he was in absolute control of the inputs that was not the case in the Parliament elections. In the Assembly elections the sampling was coneby a team of The Hinda reporters. Since Dr Balachandran knew all of them personally he would discuss the inputs and even discount obvious biases in some cases But in the case of the Parliamentary elections, he was entirely at the mercy of an

agency to: the inputs lie was commissioned only to analyse the naures provided by the particular agency. Therefore, he believes that probably the polling was "not fully, properly done". Dr. Balachandran says that the best of polls will have an error, the commonest being sampling error. If there is very little difference in votes polled between two political parties.

The Janata Party symbol of chakra-haldar was offered to Chandra Shekhar's Janata Dal(S) at the time of going to press. The new symbol of woman with pet on head was alloted to Janata Dal(S) by the Election Commission after the creek went to press.—Editor



then even a minor sampling error could make a lot of difference in the final analysis. This is the possibility in the forthcomand elections

66 The situation this time is extremely I treachezous for any pollster attempting to make predictions," says Rama Bijapurkar, deputy managing director of MARG "Our most recent polls suggest that over a third of the electorate is undecided about whom to vote for. With such an enormous black box, one would have to be very foothardy to make a fore-

Bijapurkar also feels that one of the most interesting findings emerging from the recent work of psephologets is "the dissonance between what the politicians think the voter wants to hear, and what the voter actually wants to hear". The voter, she says, is exercised over inflation and relatively anconcerned about issues like stability or Ranganmabhumi or reservation-

he the last elections, the MARG-India Today polls were the first to predict a distrial Congress (1) performance and put them below the 200 seat mark. They correath predicted a total rold in the north. but the south and west estimates were off mark. This may have been because smaller samples at the zonal levels were inadequate. 'It is true.' Buaparkar admits, "that our seat forecast last time bit the bull's-eye at the all India level but not at the state level. The reason is very simple. The sample size within any one state is too small. So while at the national level, the errors across states can cancel each other out, that obviously cannot happen as the level of an individual state or region.

Elaborating on why their overall estimate in the last polls were correct, as

One of the most interesting findings emerging from the recent work of psephologists, according to Rama Bijapurkar, is the dissonance between what the politicians think the voter wants to hear. and what the voter actually wants to hear'



against estimates of the Congress(1) strength in the south and west, Bijapurkar retorts, "Nobody seems to ask about the sampling method or the sample spread which are equally, if not more important' There is the classic example of the US Presidential election in 1936, when an unrepresentative sample of 2.5 million voters produced an incorrect forecast, but scientifically selected samples of about 3,000 voters got it right

There are characteristic hurdles that pollsters in India tace while conducting opinion polls here. The conditions abroad are hardly the same. The two types of probolems that they face here are operational and technical. "At the operational level, the problem is the obvious one of personally interviewing voters (because the telephone penetration is too low) throughout the length and breadth of the country, within a very short period of time," says Bijapurkar, "In the rural areas, there is the additional problem of getting people to open up without fear." The technical problems, according to her, revolve around a number of issues like a persistent over-claim in favour of the ruling party, a fairly high proportion of 'don't know/can't say' type of answers; and the problem of converting the percentage of voters into the number of Lok Sabha seats, given our first past the post' system.

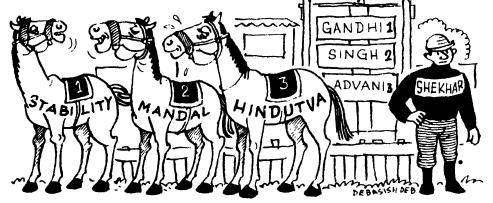
They do try and tackle these problems by their interviewers carrying simulated ballot boxes to re-assure voters that their answers are totally anonymous. They also use a mathematical model based on swing zones which converts the proportion of votes likely to be cast in favour of a particular party into the number of seats likely to be won by that party. A number of checks to detect deliberate non-disclosure of voting intentions are incorporated both into the questionnaire as well as the data

"Election forecasts can still go wrong," explains Rama Bijapurkar . "An inadequate sample size or an unrepresentative sample or a lack of rigour in the sampling procedure (i.e. the manner of selection of the respondents) could affect the accuracy of the forecast. The late swings which affect the way people finally vote but are not picked up by the polls which (despite being published very near the event). usually are done about three weeks before D-Day. Questions which are clumsy or deliberately loaded or even improperly sequenced could distort the results. A high proportion of 'can't say/don't know' answers (if adequate precautions like simulated ballot boxes have not been taken) is yet another factor that would vitiate the correctness of a forecast. Obviously," Bijapurkar concludes, "a combination of the above problems causes errors to multiply " .

THE DELHI DURBAR STAKES

The silly season is here again and the Delhi Durbar Stakes are on. The Grand Prize is worth 84 crores, so every ill-bred mule and ass is in the tray. And though the field is short on class, someone has got to win.

Approaching the bend (though some say he's gone round it) is Gandhi atop Stability. The old mare has an imThe big race is about to begin. And while the horses are parading in the paddock, a quick look at who's dry-coated and who's rarin' to go; and who stands at what odds



pressive record, having won the Sweepstakes on all but two occasions. Old timers will recall her famous runs as Garibi Hatao and Piaz Ka Bhao. She's also appeared, with mixed success, as Foreign Hand or simply Hand, the foreign labels having all been appropriated by her jockey.

Stability's main problem, apart from being overflogged, is overweight. The result of years of indulgence is exacerbated by the handicap of a large number of hangers-on. Swift progress should therefore not be expected from her, although in the enervated field her ponderous shambling through various sections of the track may well prove sufficient. Indeed, even on the last occasion, despite being kicked in the Cow Belt, she led the field until she was boxed in from the left and right and then tripped by Mr Clean. This time

such concerted action looks improbable and Stability is the bookie's favourite.

Nonetheless, uncertainties persist. Age and multiple pregnancies have sapped her stamina. Nor does her jockey's past performances give cause for confidence. Gandhi is believed to have nailed his jodhpurs to the saddle and at least should not fall off. However, he still occasionally suffers from the delusion that his mare has wings. Few would have forgotten the nightmare of his riding 21st Century off the track in search of a runway. He must improve his tactical skills and curtail his desire to grandstand if he wishes to pilot her safety home.

Stability's chief challenge comes from the Saffron Stable whose entry Hindutva' will be ridden by Advani. There is some confusion about the colt which is better known as Ram Janmabhoomi. An application to card him as Ram or Roti? is also pending. Not surprisingly, Hindutva shows symptoms of schizophrenia and is extremely temperamental. He sometimes pays no heed to his jockey and may tend to veer off towards Ayodhya. He is expected to do well in the Bigoted Areas, particularly when running over Minorities, but could well go catatonic in more unfamiliar terrain.

Hindutva's irritable temper and precocious progress makes him one of the best hated horses on the frack. He will mostly have to do without a pace keeper and rivals will be pleased to kick and bite at every opportunity. An attempt to disqualify him ou technical grounds has aiready been made. His best bet hes in opening a sizeable lead before entering the final straight.

Much will also depend on

Advani's skill. Despite his peculiar habit of balancing a toothbrush on his upper lip, Advani is a shrewd rider. He is adept at tearing through gaps with surprising aggression and is reputed for never having been cornered. The recent practice on the Rath should also stand him in good stead. A good run through the Hindi heartland may be all that he needs to score an upset

Another serious contender for the Grand Prize is the gelding Mandal with Singh on the saddle. Mandal replaces Mr Clean who died of contamination last year. The gelding's potential is unknown, although on the training track he has impressed while running backwards. His recent emasculation, however, is bound to have an adverse effect leading to doubts about his ability to complete the course.

Singh's abilities are also suspect. He has a reputation for dropping from the saddle when underfoot conditions are not to his liking. Temperamentally too, he is happier on a fence than on a horse. Perhaps as a consequence, the owners have appointed several apprentice pickeys to guide Mandal. A horse with four legs will also lend a helping hand in some crucial sections of the track

Mandal is a tempting prospect for those inclined to a flutter at long odds. Tiros are however warned that there is every chance of Singly riding into the sunset with their money.

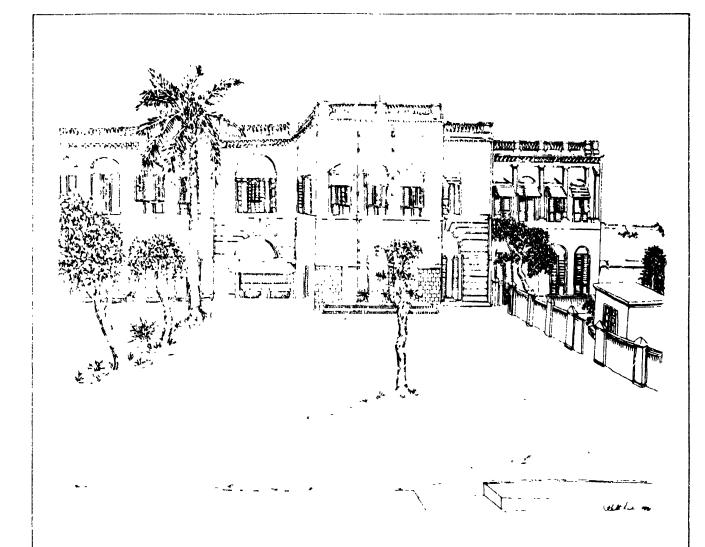
There are, of course, several other equines on the course of whom the left legged one has been noted in passing. Mention must also be made of Shekhar-the horseless jockev who so adroitly rode on Gandhi's shoulder and snatched the reins from Singh in the Great Hijack of 1990. The horse is actually a broken winded hack that looks unlikely to progress beyond Ballia. The remaining aspirants are mostly suited for shorter distances and are not expected to endure the gruelling course Nevertheless, the interference they cause could prove crucial to the final outcome

Sudip Mallik



HERITAGE - Rathin Mitra

HOOGHLY MOHSIN COLLEGE



Founded in 1836, the Hooghly Mohsin College was built from the funds bequeathed by Muhammad Mohsin who died without heirs in 1812. He left his large property, yielding an annual income of Rs 45,000, to Mahomedan Trustees "for the service of God".

Owing to cei tain irregularities in the funds, the government assumed the offices of the trustees, thereby triggering off a litigation that went on for many years during which the annual income accumulated, forming a surplus of Rs

8,61 100. This surplus income went towards the building of the Hooghly Mohsin College Its development was further made possible by funds that were acquired after the death of one of the Mutwallees of Hughl Imambarah which also derived its support from the same legacy.

In the beginning, the college had only two departments, the English and the Oriental, under the General Committee of Public Instruction, Lower Provinces. The English department was divided into the college and the collegiate school. The Madrassa became a separate unit in 1922.

The college was affiliated to the University in 1857. It had a law department and its students appeared at the MA exammation also. Since 1872, the government has been funding all its expenses. The college now offers honours courses in various arts and science subjects. It is equipped with a well-stocked library and science laboratories. Besides various extra-curricular activities the college provides scholarships and concessions to eligible students.

THINER EYE O Belan Darumala

RIES March 21 April 20 Loans funds invest ments property

family and the luck of the draw are the main trends of the week Finance includes buying and selling Regarding health Mars could lead to fevers accidents or operations A shift transfer plenty of movements and commuting are foretold. Changes are predicted at home and the health of elders will cause anxiety

AURUS April 21 May 20 Your work will be done and partnerships at all levels will be mighty important Romance is also obviously included Important negotiations are foretold around May 1 3 You may have to take a trip probably with a stopover Expect confusion and too many demands at home

EMINI May 21 June 20 The main trends of the week are job-hop and perks, but be wary of ser vants colleagues and pets as trouble emanates from these sources Be polite but firm In romance, there will be enough to

make you feel loved wanted and desired Expect money shortly Plenty of communication and an invitation could lead to a trip Health problems or rather stress are clearly indicated

June 21- July 20

ANCER

Fun and games high voltage creativity, hectic socialising children and lottery will delight you Romance promises a big yes so what are you waiting for? In finance, the monetary situation improves and hence you will feel secure and have fun The weekend would be favourable for fun, picnicking or just an outing You can tide over minor health irritations. At home it is time for making changes, playing host and hav-ing a ball

E0 July 21 -August 21 The main trends of the week constitute home, property finance, buying or selling, and funding Maybe, a home away from home in romance, you have too many irons in the fire to really have a wild go A shift of office is also included, so is a house-move unless there has been one recently For a day or two you may be a bit uncer the weather



















August 22 Sept 22

IRGO

It is time to make the world aware of your presence and power by communicative skills and sheer per sonality it is time to move Ro mance is promised in ample me asure in financial matters, work to a plan contact and socialise Visitors foreigners and relatives make your day Health improves giving you elbow room Renovation to an overhaul and facelift

IBRA Sept 23- Oct 22 The focus this week is on finance family funds and far away places Pas sion grabs your heart. Finance is where the action really is Health may pose a few snags backache and problems involving teeth stomach or feet Trips and ties could be inter related Major changes are in the offing at home Health of parents in laws and elders may cause anxiety Reach out to people.

BIRTHDAYS

are the indications at home

Abril 28

Full moon There will be mixed results Folks could behave in an eccentric, contrary manner and that in turn could rile you, ruffle your feathers. Health may not be excellent

April 29

Moon trine Mars: This trine refers to opportunities. It is up to you to convert them into solid nuggets of reality Funds will be available. Those in management and housing will do really well and in your personal affairs the going will be good too. The name of the game is success

April 30

No strong aspect You may have to struggle and concentrate a lit-tie more this year if you want to procees, There could be some randings and misunderstanding set your place of work. If angling for bans and investments, let the safety first motto guide you. September and January should be encouraging months for you

inhe Jupiter Success in

endeavours is promised. A shift, move, loans and property form the quartet around which your life rotates Romance, marriage, collaborations and taking chances are the other outstanding features of the birthyear.

May 2

Moon trine Mercury, opposition Venus Those in sales, teaching, writing, publishing, acting and direction could ignite the world into an awareness of their graness Expenses, however, a mount and extra care in finance, buying and selling will be needed.

May 3

Mars opposition Neptune: Be practical and slightly conserva-tive and all should be well if you need to take chances, do so atter August 21.

May 4

Sun trine Uranus. Your work will be done Those in travel, mariagement, sales, publishing, publicity, import-export and business do an excellent job of it. Many Taureans will be guided by in-apiration and intuition as moon also conjuncts Neptime. A year of progress, savel and publicity.



CORPIO

Oct 23- Nov 22 The full moon in your sign according to

Western astrology means firm and rather painful decisions have to be taken both on the personal and the work frontiers You will have to go through a chop-n change time Engage ment marriage strong ties and a violent separation are foretoid in romance Commission sales and collaborations are definitely favoured



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23- Dec 20 The main trends of

the week are a job switch introspection secret deals danger of theft and mis placing of valuables. The accent will be on community service Romance will require surrepti tious moves you might have to be a detective! Legal issues could also crop up The spotlight is on work Travel only if you have to Your health could buckle under pressure



APRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19 Wine and roses plea sure and profit con tacts and collaborations make up

the week Romance will be bit ter-sweet and exciting Deals will be closed this week and profits made Satisfaction is certain You will have enough energy to move mountains and suck an ocean dry Preparations for a so journ will be on



QUARIUS

J. 20 Fet 18 Home and property steal the thunder this

week Also you should make every possible effort to improve your prospects. Changes are en visaged Attend to work first ro mance can wait Regarding finance, be knowledgeable about latest technology sales method prices and management as competition will hot up Unless there is an emergency do not travel

ISCES

Feb 19-March 20 Long-distance con nections collabora tions publicity ceremony rites functions and travel sum up this week in romance ardour and fervour make you a hot favourite In finance import-export trad

ing commission, job-switch and plenty of meets conferences and business luncheons are anticipated

PANORAMA

nce again in this century of upheav als in Mother Russia, an earthquake proceeds swiftly today, threatening to shatter the Soviet Union and its failed communist system

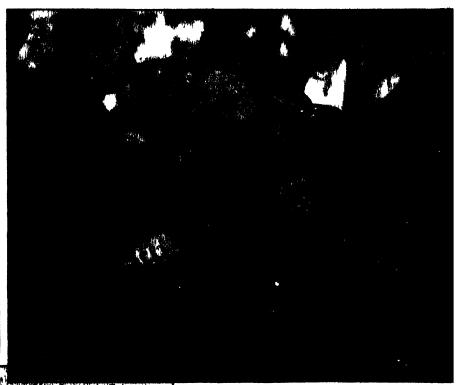
"With the Soviet Union careering like a runaway troika, Russia is re-emerging, wriggling out from beneath the gray levell ing blanket of socialism," writes Mike Ed-

wards

"There is a new quest for the much trampled Russian culture, for the 'soul' that writers lauded for its breadth and warmth. The old love of the gentle land scape blooms anew— in the form of an ger over polluted rivers and smoky vistas."

Edwards a veteran of many assign ments to the Soviet Union travelled through Mother Russia, the old heartland from which had sprung the Russian empire and its successor, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to measure change and seek portents of the future

This is European Russia It stretches from the Baltic Sea to the Ural Mountains and from the arctic tundra to the Black and Caspian seas With a population of 110



States was in fly as a Time-moving and self-like states colonel confinence and in the showed up at the 1980 May Day and the states of the Square to female in and so commentees. The fall the party has lost many members, it remains antique that is the Soviet bureaucracy

only sausage and codka, long retioned, but also potatoes eggs, bread and cigarettes

The threat of political or economic collapse has become so great that the Soviet legislature has granted Gorbachev's re

million it takes up but one quarter of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Re public, which spans a continent

Highly industrialised yet profoundly tied to the past, it produces automobiles, aircraft, heavy machinery, plastics and che micals. But the domes of its eastern Orthodox citadels gleam softly in the pale northern sun.

Hordes of Russians have returned to churches reopened under the liberalising policies of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "Historically, nothing touched the Russian soul so profoundly as faith," Edwards writes "Many worshippers doub tlessly seek divine shelter from the chaos of current events"

He was present for some of those events, including noisy 1990 demonstrations in Moscow that both called for the end of communist rule and denounced its detractors

In this "retro-revolution," as Edwards calls it, Russia and other republics, proclaiming sovereignty, want the union reshaped as a loose confederation in which they manage their own affairs. Some, such as the Baltics, demand total independence

as the Baltics, demand total independence Gorbachev's 1990 Nobel Peace Prize however well-deserved for reducing superpower tension—cut little ice with hungry and frustrated Muscovites. As he loosed the reins on speech and permitted multiparty elections, the long-stagnant economy was collapsing. The list of vanishing commodities grew to include not

Why is passion for the mighty blessing of a river in the Soviet Union turning to anger? A report

Photographs: Steve Raymer

quests for emergency powers with which to hold the wheezing machinery together Moscow is awash with rumours of a coup And life has gotten worse. In Novgorod one of Russia's oldest cities, Edwards found Russians discovering roots

He arrived after a three hour drive south from Leningrad past cemetery statues honouring troops who died in 1943 as the Red army pushed back German panzers. By contrast to the sobering country side, he writes, "Novgorod was life and joy, with dancers in bright costumes and women with hair like ripened wheat and eyes the colour of grass and sky Novgorod is Slavic heartland."

But colourful traditions in the ancient

city had nearly vanished under the pressure of official atheism and farm collectivisation, along with the government's tear of anything that hinted of "nationalist" feeling.

Less than five years ago, on his first trip to Leningrad, Edwards would not have made it past the guards at city hall, a bastion of communism. Last year he just walked in

Elections in March 1990 replaced the rock of communism in Leningrad with a handful of pebbles. Democrats dominate the 400-member city council, but they are



Soviet veterans of the Afghanistan War gather in a Moscow park to celebrate nothing more than survival. They were excluded from the May 9, 1990 parade on the 45th anniversary of the World War II victory over Germany, and they face neglect and disrespect from their countrymen. Bearing a striking resemblance to US veterans of Vietnam, many are bitter. Thousands more soldiers are returning from eastern Europe, finding neither jobs nor living space

fissured into half a dozen parties. The communists too are divided into factions. Most of the democratic deputies on the council are political novices. Whether they can unite to govern a city of five million, with many problems, is still unclear, Edwards writes. "Working democracy has a long way to go in Russia."

Leningrad was founded in 1703 as St Petersburg, named for Czar Peter the Great. In World War Lit switched to the Russian equivalent, Petrograd Since 1924 it has been named after Vladimir llyich Lenin, father of the 1917 revolution. Today many Leningraders would like to revert to one of the old names.

No. 67 is a hallowed foom at the vast Smolny Institute in Leningrad, one of communism's most revered shrines. It is the teacher's apartment that Lenin used as an office before transferring his government to more central Moscow. Valentina Tiutcheva, keeper of the Smolny fooms, believes it Lenin and his colleagues were alive they could revive the party.

"Whether such people exist today, I do not know," Tiutcheva says wearily "It worries me so much, not because I am a communist but because millions of people died for communist ideals," she telle Edwards.

At the far end of the other political side stands Sergei lurkov-Engelhard, grandson of a czarist army coionel, who says, "Russia has no democratic tradition. Russia cannot be ruled any way but by a monarch." Iurkov's monarchist party hopes to bring a Romanov kinsman now living in France to the throne. Like many other dissenters, Iurkov thinks he is spied upon by the KGB. If Edwards looked out the window, Iurkov told him, he would see

the white car that is always there when lurkov has visitors.

Edwards looked—and saw a white car. Surveillance would be in keeping with the KGB's Big Brother role. Although the gulag is officially closed, many a citizen still looks nervously over his shoulder. The KGB, the Soviet secret police, acknowledges an image problem and has created a public-relations department to deal with it.

At KGB headquarters, the former Lubianka Prison in downtown Moscow, Maj. Gen. Aleksandr Karbainov, who once policed minorities, seems the archetypal public-relations man: expansive, greganous. He wears a Western-tailored suit, smokes Marlboros and exudes candour. Today, Karbainov says, the KGB wants to emphasise "its humane activity and observance of laws."

"I departed in wonder," Edwards writes, "Was this Moscow or Madison Avenue?"

Meanwhile other respected institutions, even the army, come into question. Like the Vietnam War in the United States, the war in Afghanistan was unpopular in Russia.

In raucous reunion in Moscow's Gorky Park, veterans of that war exchange bear hugs and pass the vodka. "Young men going into the army should know that war is dirty," says Pavel, a veteran, "so they won't be fascinated by medals and uniforms."

Then there is the Tchaikovsky piano competition. In last year's finals the orchestra accompanying the soloists could not play the required Piano Concerto No. 1. Instead of commissioning a first-class Moscow orchestra for the prestigious in-

ternational contest, the arrangers hired a provincial aggregation from Rostov.

"With the collapse of the command system," Edwards writes, "the Tchaikovsky competition has become one more thing—like soap factories and vodka distilleries—afflicted with the national malaise."

Around the Moscow of rigid regulation a new Moscow spurts chaotically. Desks and perhaps a computer transform apartments into outposts of rampant opinion where varied organisations issue tracts and plot the end of communism. This is not always democracy at work.

Dmitrii Casiliev heads one of the anti-



In the village of Tersa in central Russia, Raia Ragoshkina cherishes visits by granddaughter Iana from the city of Voronezh, where Iana and her parents moved to seek a better life. It is in such villages that Russian reformers hope to initiate a transfer of land and property from public to private ownership

12 1 1 C

Semitic organisations called Pamyat (Memory). He condemns the 1917 revolution as a Zionist plot to subvert Russia.

Edwards writes: "Russian anti-Semitism seems to revive in hard times or when the government needs a scapegoat—one reason that Jews are emigrating at the rate of 10,000 a month."

With plenty of rubles burning pockets and little for sale, Moscow's economy has become a shambles. A taxi driver in the petty mafia operating around tourist hotels can earn about \$30 a day in hard currency from foreign travellers—a comparative fortune. At the black-market rate, 20 rubles to the dollar, his daily take is twice the monthly salary of a mid-level bureaucrat.

"Biznesmen" used to be a bad word. Now some Russian businessmen drive foreign cars equipped with telephones. The Soviet Union has spawned tens of thousands of "ruble millionaires". Much of that wealth probably came from shady deals in foreign-made VCRs or automobiles, or even drugs. Gorbachev began relaxing the government's grip on the church in 1987.

The number of Orthodox parishes in Moscow has doubled to nearly 100. In all the Soviet Union there are now



11,000—a fraction of the possibly 150,000 parishes that existed before the revolution, though priests are confident the number will continue to grow.

Russians have long been passionate about their Mother Volga, a mighty blessing of a river that reaches from far northern tributaries 2,300 miles south to the Cas-

South of Archangel in the northern reaches of European Russis, a high-heeled guard escorts a prisoner from a penal colony to a nearby farm, where he will deliver potatoes for planting. Part of the recently reformed system of gulags, the camps in Archangel Oblast now hold few political dissidents. But the Soviets are finding ready use for the old camps as they run out of space for common criminals, whose numbers are multiplying rapidly in a crime spidemic



pian Sea. But today Volga passion has turned to anger.

At Volgograd, just 275 miles from the Caspian, what was once a great sturgeon-spawning migration has come to be a man-managed migration, depending largely on hatchery-produced fingerlings. And it is nearly man-killed.

"About a thousand dollars' worth of caviar wasted," fisheries biologist lurn Dolidze says with disgust as he opens a 100-pound female sturgeon and finds a 25-pound egg sac of gray mush, not indes cent black roe. Pollution is apparently the major cause of rotten eggs, frequently seen in the caviar harvest.

The Volga carries heavy metals, such as mercury and cadmium, petroleum residues and PCBs from factories—plus tertilisers and pesticides from farms.

Russia ponders an uncertain future, "clouded by the prospect of chaos and privation, even civil war and the return of totalitarianism." Edwards writes

"She is like the Volga: abused, cruelly abused, and loved. And though her people contemplate a future dark as this poisoned river, they have proved in their galloping revolution that they have heart. They may yet win back their soul."

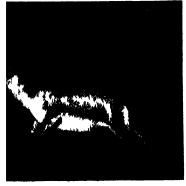
(National Geographic News Service)

THE GREAT ES



Exploring the maze of the mind and releasing himself from realism within the parameters of reality, Ashok

Bhowmick has scaled new heights of art. The results of his traversing the inner world were exhibited last week in Calcutta

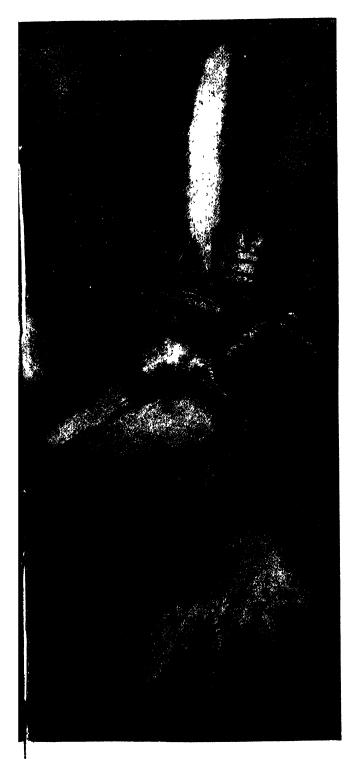


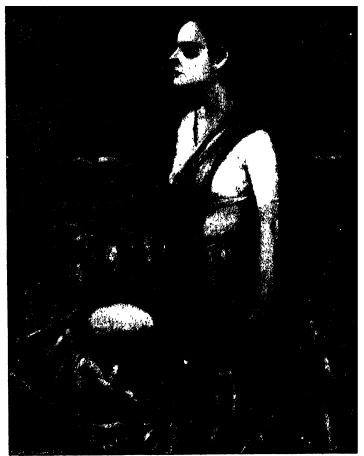
Marich



Devdası

CAPE





Roots



Dream Stairs

EVENT







The all-American burger experience at the Esplanade (Taj Bengal) was a bright new way to kick off the Bengali New Year (Poila Baisakh); and why not? Pitching in to make things happen were the American giants, Pepsi. The festival, which began on April 15, will

For those who dig
American food, the
burger boom in
Calcutta on Bengali
New Year was a
different way of
starting up things;
delicious things

continue into May 5 and is the first of a series of such festivals that the two sponsors are planning.

Ranging from the American cult figures like Archie and Jughead standing by and watching all the fun to the little kiddos digging into the goodies, a good time, as they say, was had by all!



LEISURE

ven the most hardened Calcuttan would have recoiled from the searing afternoon heat that day. But precisely at 2.45 pm on April 15, a motorised rubber dinghy carrying a Frenchman. Jean d'Orgeix, his wife Nathalie and dog Bobby bobbed into view off the Police Jetty at Outram Ghat.

Escorted by the coastguard boat, d'Orgeix and family docked at the jetty as everybody present broke into effusive applause. The sound of conch shells reverberated in the air and petals were showered on the French couple, marking the end of an incredibly intrepid 12,000 km sojourn by sea which began in Marseilles (though it took seed in Paris) 10 months

It also marked d'Orgeix's 70th birthday and his arrival in Calcutta was timed to a nicety-on Poila Baisakh, Bengali New

Year!

It all started out as a jest really. A Danish friend in Mauritius asked Jean to visit him in his island. Ah! but planes were so expensive and a rubber dinghy might be



Making it happen together

THE ()LD

also struck by the opulence of Oman.

But Yemen presented close encounters of the most terrifying kind. Rendered temporarily rudderless, the old man and the sea were nonetheless at peace with each other when a sudeen burst of machine gun staccato had the dinghy occupants ducking for cover. Jean detected the prowlers to be trigger-happy Yemen civilians who soon closed in on the dinghy. Some profanities later. Jean found himself being interrogated on his World War II conscription!

A naval officer, however, arrived in time to prevent the situation from conflagrating. Jean was profoundly affected by the stark austerity of Yemen. This, in a coun-try sandwiched between Saudi Arabia and Oman! It was here that the paradox of the Middle East was brought home to him.

Oman, Pakistan and western India were covered under mellow winter warmth. The sun grew stentorian once Madras had been rounded. "The final leg was very trying," said Jean, sporting the Yul Brynner look at the French consulate. "It required great endurance to brave the

the only answer, was Jean's jocular reaction. But the joke soon bloomed into an insatiable obsession. The septuagenerian realised he could become a pioneer of sorts in dinghy navigation if he could pull it off. Financed by Le Temps Retrouve—a "magazine for the old"—the 1948 London Olympic equestrian bronze medallist left the shores of Marseilles in June last year. He had with him his wife, pet, some rations, a little water and oceans of pluck to help him on the way.

Italy and Albania were uneventful while negotiating the Red Sea, with its waters swelling up to five metres, was the most challenging. Jean d'Oregeix pulled up in a small port in Greece. Curious about the long queue for gasoline there, he wondered aloud at the unusual bustle. Stupefied people turned to stare at him until someone explained that Kuwait had

After 10 months at sea in a rubber dinghy, Jean d'Orgeix arrived in Calcutta on Poila Baisakh

Photographs: Aloke Mitra

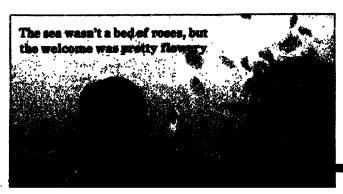
been invaded. Jean d'Or geix immediately bought a small radio to keep abreast of the latest developments in the Gulf.

Turkey, Cyprus and Egypt came and went without much ado. Saudi Arabia struck d'Orgeix as a disciplined and technically ultra-modern nation, indifferent however to the raging gulf strife. He was blistering heat and the suffocating humidity.

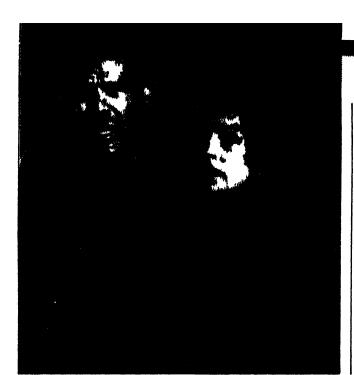
And when he made it to the city on that oppressively hot afternoon, it marked the perfect apogee to this mind-boggling odyssey.

Besides being a resilient adventurer, lean d'Orgeix had also trained his team to an Olympic equestrian gold in Montreal in 1976. He has also authored four books, edits a magazine, has reared a pet panther called Zuma, been associated with the pioneering phase of French television and has acted in 23 films! How does he plan to celebrate his 80th birthday? The jocund countenance crinkles into an endearing smile and Jean d'Orgeix throws up his hands in mock surrender. But his twinkling eyes tell quite a different story.

Atirath Aich







A scene from Die Hard 2

7 DAYS

din Shali Vrisha Usgaonkat Natasha ind Amrish Puri comprise the main cast. The film is directed by Umesh Mehra and the music is by Annu Malik

Metre (Ch wringhee Kord 280141) Mijestic (Rifi Ahmed Kriwai Roid 242266) Pribhit (Chittirinjin Avenue 340-62) Uttiri (Billin Sirini > 2001 Purabi (Mihatma Gindhi Kid 350650) Ujili (Russi Ki)id 478066) Privi Rishbehiri Avenue 464440) 4 sh.ws.

A film by Sund Dutt who il stars along with Kekh Kabu Bedi Shakti Kapeer Kaneet Fin du ind debut inte Sheem

Bengali Films

• Aamaar Sathi I arjini (Bidhin Saini 580%) Fii hi (AJC Bose Road 2 1 82) Pana (S.I. Mukherjee Koid 1 4 (-) 3 shows

Directed by Salil Dutta the film stars Arjum Chakraborty Satabdi Rey Manoj Mitra Rabi Chose Abhijit Sen and Jum Banerjee The music is by Mrin d Banerjee

• Beder Meye Josna Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani 53413) Aiuna (Mahatma Gardhi Read 359 61) Isharati (* P. Mukherjee Read 47468t) 1 1 /

One of the biggest hits in receit times this Binglidesh product restars. Chiragical and Anju Chosh. The film 1 directed by Mativur kehman Fanu.

• Mahaprithivi Mini (Bidhar Satani 5 753) Bijoli (S. I. Malherjee Road 473162 Chlibighar (Mahatra Gandhi Kead 352 10) 3 4 8 15

A Minial Scittling Science Vittering Vittering Coctis Scittling Dutt Amilia Majumdai and Aparia Scittling Coctis Scitt Scittling Coctis Scittl

Amitabh Bachchan and Dimple Kapadia in Ajooba

All information given on these pages is assurate at the time of poing to proce

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Ajooba Faridise (Bentinck Street 28:3442) 1 shows

A film by Shishi Kipoor star ing Amitibh Bachchin Rishi Kipo ir Dimple Kipidia Sonan Shaumi Kipoor and Amitib Puri The music is by Lixmakint Pyricl

Benaam Badsha Orient (Bentinck Street 28191) Crown (Rifi Ahmed Kidwii Koad 24482) Kiishn (I C Dutti Street 23043 Menoka (Surat Chitterice Avenue 41041) Lilkie Show House (Shibdas Blinduri Street 25220) Jagat (Achirvi Prifulli Chindra Roid 365108) Malinchi (Regent Park)

And Kapoor and Julia Chawla uc the lead pair in this film directed by K. Kaya Shankar. The music is by Laximk int. Py irelal.

• Sanam Bewafa Lotus (5 N Binerice Road 242664) 4 shows

A major by office hit starring salman Khan and debutante Chandra The film is directed by saw in Kurnar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor

 Shikari Jvoti (Lenin Sarani 241132) Biria (Bidhan Sarani 311322) Purnistee (Raja Raj Kissen Street 554033) Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Raad 484808) Mithur Chaktaborty, Nascerud



7 DAYS

• Rin Sodh: Seeg (Bellion Saram) w. et al. Parabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road), (B0080), Upale (Russa Rua), (4/8000), (3/81aws)

Directed by Brinal Karnar and with order to Raissh Rosslam, the three states of mala slath. Chawlank with the Erich States Kapoor and Raiss Control

Foreign Films

- A Prayer for the Dying (A): Chibe thadsay street about.
- Just Married (A), Jamana (Morques 1886) 177 (8) 1
- My Tutor (Anthorne is Lind

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• Aayee Wilan Ki Raat: El te Se nombre de le condissibilité William de Control Strott, 42 Maria de Control Rain de La Street de Pata Bala Bulhan Saram, 311522), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road, 484808), Madhuban (Regent Park).

Directed by K. Pappu, the main cast comprises Avinash Wadhwan, Shaheen Anupani Kher, Kabbhashan Kharibanda Aloknath, Aruna Iram Rita Bhaduri and Paresh Pawal. The music is by Anand Milind.

• Afsana Pyar Ka: Ross (Chowringhee Place, 2841.38), Majestic (Raft Ahmed Kidwar Road 242266) Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street, 2504.87) Mitra (Bidhan Sarani, 5)11.33), Chhava Acharva Prafulla Chandra Road, 6)1382), Ragini (Belaghat) Main Road, 303264), Priya (Rashhehari Avenue) 40440), Kalika (Sadaranda Road, 478141)

Aanut Khan and Neelam are the lead pair in this film, directed by Shahjahan. The music is by Bappi Lahiri.

Special Events

28 April: 6.30 pm

Ananuka presents the Hindi

comedy play, Ban Buaji based on Badal Suvar's original Bengah script and translated by Dr Praubha Agaiwal Directed by Bimal Lath, the cust includes Vinita Rellin, Ajay Chatturwedi Yogesh Suri, Anna Bhattachaiva Laxim Prasad, Aiav Mishra, Dinesh Thakkar, and Aditi Sucai

At Kali Mandir (Basement) (Shakespeare Saran, 149086) 28 April: 6.30 pm

In collaboration with the United Scates Information Service Stage-traft presents Harvey a comedy play in three acts Directed by Rona Pointor the sast includes Shalin David Meena Greif Mithe Him, Steve Gonaez David Atkins, Clays Delier Serie, Helen Gasper, Ashieh Soed, Neil Mukhero e and Roha Pointha.

At Gyan Manch, H. Pretoria, Street)

28 & 29 April: 3 pm - 8 pm

An exhibition of paintings b. Sushanta Ghosh in the West Gallery

Mrityunjov Chakraborty will hold

an exhibition of painting in the Central Gallery

• An e-chibition, et pleat grant on Kushal Gangopathyay and Souput ta Dutia et in North Gallery

 An exhibition of painting, by the dudent of Sanger's Sharing of the New Gallets.

29 April onwards, 3 pm 8 pm I recounter will rold towards force exhibition of pointing on the Norw South Gallery

30 April onwards, 3 pm / 8 pm A week loop, a day to a loop of

trip on Survey of the comments of granteeth at Chapter (See Survey) the West and North Rollenie.

• The Society for the 1963 of hold modern exhibition of the 1963 of the New York of the New Yo

All Academy of the Artificial Cathedral Food (SEC)

1 May: 6.30 pm

Pray (Kalle Karrego) of the Hugh connects per fiber early key Bol Bala, Salette Key Market, a directed by Sto. Ratio America

M. Kala, Marca, B. 1999. (Stake speare Samo, 11865).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York Dep (2) At 101 at 0230 Bombay Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo Arr (5) At 306 at 1915, Dep (5) At 306 at 2020

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay Arr (6) At 309 at 1910, Dep. (6) At 109 at 2025. London-Delhi-Calcutta. Arr. (7)

Al 132 1328 at 1230
**Moscow-Sharjah-Catcutta, Art
(4) SU-537 at 1525

* Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow Dep (4) 50 538 at 1725 * Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanoi Arr (2) SU-541 at 0640 Dep (2) SU-541 at 0750

* Hanor-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow Arr (2) SU 542 at 1615 [imp (2) SU-542 at 1815

Amman-Calcutta, Arr. (4) RU-184 at 0645 Calcutta-Amman | Dep. (5) RU-

- Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok Arr. (1): RO-063 at 1115. Arr. (6): RO-063 at 1045. Dep. (1): RO-063 at 1230. Dep. (1): RO-063 at 1200.

185 at 0530

- Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest Am of the RO-964 at 2015 Dep (1-b) RO-964 at 2130

Calcutta-Singapore Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4) SQ-420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): 5Q-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at 1210

Calcutta-Bangkok: Den (2, 4-7)

iC 731 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 6), TG-314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7) IC-732 at 1500, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG 313 at 1240

Calcutta-Kathmandu Dep (2 4, 7) IC-747 at 1600 Dep (1, 5) BA-214 at 1455

Kathmandu-Calcutta Arr (2, 4, 7) IC 748 at 1930, Arr (1, 5) RA-213 at 1955

Calcutta-Dhake: Dep (3 6) IC-723 at 1340, Dep (daily) BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (3, 6) IC-724 at 1600, Arr (daily) BG-091 at 140 and BG-093 at 1855

Calcutta-Chittagong Dep (2 5) BG-698 at 1950

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1910

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (2) KB-106 at 0900, Arr (2) KB-105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India WWW. Dep (2) Ai-

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2) Ai-101 at 0230 Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Ai-1328 at 1230

Indian Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-402 at 1730 and IC-263 at 0700, Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-273 at 2000 and IC-176 at 0850. Arr (daily) IC-175 at 0750 and IC-

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433

274 at 1850

Calcutta Madras: Dep (daily) IC-765 at 1700, Arr (daily) IC-766 at 2210

Calculta-Bangalore: Dep (daily) IC-771 at 0610, Arr (daily) IC-772 at 1200

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr (daily) IC 409 at 1545

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Deihi, Dep (daily) IC-410 at 0615

Calcutta-Guwahati. Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-729 at 0800, Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1630, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-730 at 1100

Calcutta-Agartala. Dep (daily) IC-743 at 1330 Dep (3 5 6 7) IC-241 at 0700, Dep (1, 2, 4) IC-241 at 0700, Arr (daily) IC 744 at 1600, Arr (3, 5, 6, 7) IC 242 at 1350, Arr (1, 2, 4) IC-242 at 0900 Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0530, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Port Blair, Dep. (2-4-6). IC-285 at 0530, Arr. (2, 4, 6). IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (daily) IC-201 at 1400. Arr (daily) IC-202 at 1730

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (daily)

IC 221 at 1100, Arr. (daily). IC 192 at 1320.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat Calcutta: Dep (2-3-4-5, 7) IC 213 at 0600, Arr (2-3-4-5, 7) IC-213 at 0955

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal [24 p (daily) IC-255 at 1950 Arr (daily) IC 256 at 1530

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar, Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-269 at 1650. Arr. (1, 7, 4, 7). IC-270 at 1910.

Calcuta-Bhubaneswar Nagpur-Hyderabad. Dep. (3, 5, 6), 10, 269 at 1650. Arr. (3, 5, 6), 10, 279 at 2040.

Calcutta-Guwahati-Dimapur Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7), IC-219 at (1846 Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7), IC-220 at (320 Calcutta-Hyderabad); Dep. (1, 2)

7) IC-277 at 1745 Arr (1 2 7) IC-278 at 2215

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras Dep (1.2.4.6) 10.542 at 0700, Arr. (1.2.4.6) 10.541 at 0915

Calcutte-Imphal Dep (c 4 6) IC 259 at 1330 Arr (2 4 6) IC 260 at 1610

Vayudoot www.

Calcutta-Agartala-Kailasahar Dep (2-4) PF 729 at 0596 Acr 12 4) PF-730 at 1530

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta - No traffic rights on Calcutta Barryron Carcutto

7 DAYS

Trains

-Silchar: Dep -/10, Arr (7) PF-

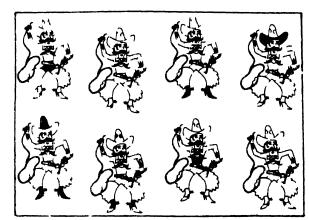
och Behar: Dep (1, 07 at 0855, Arr (1, 3, 5)

PF-708 at 1150 Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-705 at 0855, Dep (1, 3, 5) PF-705A at 1220, Arr (2, 4, 6, 7) PF-706 at 1250, Arr (1, 3,

5) PF-706A at 1615 Calcutta-Jamahedpur: Dep (1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6) PF-717 at 0600, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) PF-718 at 0745 Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong: Dep (1 3, 5, 6). PF-701 at 0930, Arr (1 3, 5, 6) PF-702 at 1400 Calcutta-Agartala-Shillong Calcutta: Dep (7) PF-701 a 1210, Arr (7) PF 702 at 1615

					iins				
Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY Arriv		val Departure		nrtur e	SOUTH-EASTERN	Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn			RAILWAY		
2311	19-00	Delhi-Kalka Mail	8-30	2312	1100	T l	Howrah	T 1	P
3005	19-20	Amriteer Mail	8-05	3006	Up	Time	nowran	Time	Dn
3003	20-00	Bombay Mall via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Madras Mall	7-00	6004
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombey Mall via Nagour	8-00	8001
		press via Gaya-Varanasi			2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	2859
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat			8034	20-20	Ahmedebed Express	5-05	8033
		Arr—Wed Fri & Sun.							
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	10.00	0004	8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
2303	8-13	press via Patna Dep-Mon Wed. Fri. & Sun	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex- press	11-50	2842
		Arr—Mon Tues Thurs & Sat			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express Dep-Tues	13-45	2612
2301	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	1		Arr—Sun		
200	.0 00	week		2007	8013	17-30		10.00	8014
		Dep-Mon Tues. Thurs. Fri &					Tata Steel Express	10-20	
		Sun			8011	6-10	ispat Express	21-45	8012
					8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	8006
		Arr—Tues Wed. Thurs Sat. &			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	8016
		Sun			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8008
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkiy	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via Naraj	7-45	8410
		Dep-Tues Fri & Sat			2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	2822
05.47	40 40	Arr-Tues Wed & Sat			l		press		
2547	13-15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	8079	23-20	Tirupati Express	4-15	8080
		press			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex-	14-55	8046
		DepMon & Thuis			i		press		
3009	20-05	Arr—Thurs & Mon Doon Express via Grand	7-20	3010	8017	16-45	Purulia Express Dep—Except Saturday	11-20	8018
		Chord					Arr-Except Sunday		
3007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	-
3049	13-05	Amritser Express	15-45	3050	}		Monday only		
3011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	-	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrsh	13-45	2601
3039	20-55	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-30	3040			- Guwahati Express Saturday only		
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	_	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
3021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	i	14 10	Guwahati Weekly Express	10 40	2045
2557	6-00	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	i		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
5659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express			l				
3317			6-30	5660			Thursday only		
	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	-
3029	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030	l		Terminus Weekly Express		
3035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036	1		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3031	21-00	Denapur Express	6-35	3032	1		Saturday only		
3025	23-00	North Bihar Express	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	2651
		DepWednesday ArrFriday					Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)	10	200.
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkly Express	6-00	3072	1		Dep-Fri. & Sun		
	~~	Dep-Tues Thurs & Sat	2 00	E	1		Arr—Tues & Fri.		
		ArrMon Thurs & Sat			0074	00.05		00.45	
3015	9-55	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	45 40	0040	2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	_
		Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	1		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
2159	15-25	Chambel (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160	i		& Cuttack)		
		weekly Superfact Express			1		Wednesday only		
		Dep-Thurs. Sat & Sun.			I -	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
		Arr—Tues Wed. & Thurs			1		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express Dep-Tues. & Wed	7-30	1172			& Cuttack) Monday only		
		Arr-Sat & Sun			2610	22-35	Patne-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	_
3327	15-25	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Ex-	7-30	3328	20.0	££ 00	minus Weekly Express (via Howrah)	22 .0	
		Dep & Arr-Mon. & Fri					Thursday only		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr.—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patne Weekly Express (via	13-45	2609
		Sealdah					Howrah)		
					1		Wednesday only		
3143	19-00	Derjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	ļ.				
3153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154				<u>.</u>	
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152			r round the clock information of		
3133	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	all oth	er inform	ial 203545-54 for in-coming train nation. For information about	reservation	ons on
	18.20	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104	Easter	n and So	uth Eastern Railways trains, die	203500	(from 9
3103									
3103 5185	18-20 12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186	am to	9 pm on	weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm	on Sunda	ys and

LIVER IN SECTION



FIND TWINS! Rootin and Tootin , two of the fancy Dans above, look enough alike to be twins. Which two are they?

 CUTUPS! Behead a beast and you will find a bigger beast left behind. Behead this larger beast and then instead of one, you li find ten. How so?

X nurti so sol sut beerleft



NAUTICALLY SPEAKING

How many of the following nautical terms can you translate? Each be gins with letter A which generally speaking is short for at to in with

- 1 Abaft
- 2 Abeam 3 Adrift
- 4 Ahoy
- 5 Alee 6 Amain
- 7 Aport
- 8 Avast
- 9 Aweather P.S. Some meanings may vary

fitw lacoff & E close entic T & lacer entic T & close entic T & close ewing of B close entic T & closed a service of B qost & the entic T & because the entic T & close entic T & because the entic T & close entic T & because the entire that the entire thas the entire that the entire that the entire that the entire tha

e GRID LOCK! Home town's ball, first down Play gains three yards Second down Play loses six yards Third down Foe picks off pass 25 yards downfield from line of scrimmage, runs back football 45 yards to Home town's 43 yard line

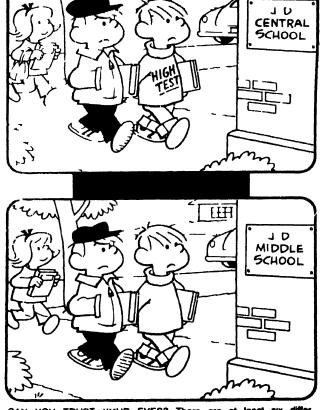
Question At what yard line did Hometown team begin play on first down?

en bray hub) gaird is themisqqc 10.





HH



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differ ences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Purse is missing 2 Cap is different 3 Sweater words are missing 6 Book is moved 5 Car is moved 6 School name is different $\,$

FUNSPOT



PICKUP TEAM! Every litter bit helps natch so everybody s on the job Colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3 Yellow 4—Lt brown 5 Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk green 9- Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

APPARENT

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points and drug washow eighted.



OUIZ - Neil O'Brien

lease write something about Herman Rorschach who invented the inkblot test," writes Ghansyam Misra, Calcutta 34.

When he was in school, the inventor of the world famous Rorschach inkblot test was called Kleck, or "inkblot" by his chums. Like many other youngsters in his native Switzerland Rorschach enjoyed Klecksography, the making of fanciful inkblot "pictures". Unlike the other youngsters, Rorschach would make inkblots his life's work.

An art teacher, like his father, Rorschach showed great talent at painting and drawing conventional pictures. When it was time for him to finish school, he could not decide between a career in art and one in science. He wrote a letter to the famous German biologist, Ernst Haeckel, to seek his advice. Perdictably, the scientist suggested science, and Rorschach enrolled in medical school at the University of Zurich.

It was an exhilarating time to be studying science, particularly in Europe and particularly in the field of medicine A Viennese physician, Sigmund Freud, had delved into the subconscious mind. and his findings about the human personality caused much traditional scienceand morality-to be questioned. Rorschach was also fortunate in having the eminent psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler for a teacher Bleuler had taught another doctor who was making a name for himself in Zurich, Carl Jung. All three men greatly influenced Rorschach.

The excitement in intellectual circles over psychoanalysis constantly reminded Rorschach of his childhood inkblots. Why, he wondered, might two people see entirely oifferent things in the same inkblots. While still a medical student, he began showing inkblots to school children and analysing their reactions. He was aided in these first tests by a

CBS

11th Question: Who are called the 'Male Geishas' of Japan? (Ramchandra Singh, Canal Road, P.O. Dehri-on-Sone, Dist Rohtas, Bihar 821307)

Ans: The Sumo wrestling stars who spend hours beautifying themselves

with their conventional clothing (loin cloth), hairstyling, massage, etc., before a bout.

friend he had played Klecksography with in school, who had become an art teacher. The two men wanted to know if gifted students fantasised more in their interpretations of inkblots than average students. Unfortunately, the results of these early tests and the inkblots used have been lost Rorschach was intrigued by Freud's work in interpreting dreams, but a dream he himself had had left him puzzled. The night after he witnessed his first autopsy. Rorschach dreamt that he had died and his body was being autopsied. Although he was dead in his dream, he could see and feel what

QUESTIONS

1) In aviation parlance, what is a 'pancake landing'? (Amit Mathur, Sindri

2) What is a 'dog paddle'? (Sanjay Dayal, Ranchi 2)
3) Which Indian industrialist stayed next to Albert Einstein at Oxford for six months and used to play the piano to Einstein's violin? (Kalyan Nath. Kalyani 35)

4) Which is India's golden city? (Vikas Singh, Rourkela 3)

5) Which physical quantity is 'poise' a unit of? (Sauray Mitra, Calcutta 29)

6) What is the instrument used for seeing the particles hidden in the view of the mirror? (Sougata Sarkar, Durgapur 4)

7) Why is South Korea's Kim Joo-Sung nicknamed "Paolo Rossi of Asia" and "Little Samson"? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcut-

8) Who described Russia as "a riddle, wrapped in mystery, inside an enigma"? (Biplab Biswas, Cal-

cutta 65)
9) The film, Farenheit 451, directed by Francois Truffaut, is based on Ray Bradbury's book of the same name. What is so significant about the film's name? (Isrhatara Khatoon,

Bardhaman 51)
10) Name the only Sherlock Holmes case where the crime is committed by the Ku Klux Klan. (Subrata Haldar, Tribeni 3)

ANSWERS

10) Five Orange Pips. temperature. 9) Paper burns at that Winston Churchill. strength and speed nis long hair gives him Samson" because he says acound browess and "Little pecause of his goal-"SISA to ISSOR Olosa" (T rie inagnetic lines ejections is locussed by light, a parallel beam of this, instead of a beam of nl (aemit 000,01 tuods) more magnifying power microscope but with much purpose to the ordinary is an instrument similar in 6) Electron microscope, it 5) Viscosity. cementing the joints. and yellow clay is used for ings are of yellow stones 4) Jaisaimer, where build-3) Russi Mody kicking motion. and the legs maintain a aims paddle in the water ewimming in which the io miai mennemele nA (S tracted, undercarriage still re-1) An emergency landing. by an aircraft with its

was happening as the presiding physician sliced through his brain. The dream helped convince Rorschach that there was a strong tie between perception and the unconscious. He chose the symbolism of halfucinations as the topic for his doctoral dissertation.

After he received his MD in 1912. Rorschach worked briefly in Russia and then returned to work in mental hospitals in Zurich. He stepped up his inkblot research, testing 300 mental patients and 100 "normal" persons. In 1921 his now famous work *Psychodiagnostics*, which set forth his methods of using inkblots to probe the unconscious, was published.

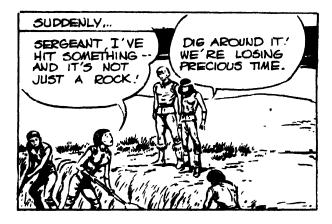
The Rorschach test consists of 10 cards, each containing one ornate inkblot. Five are in black and white and five are in colour. The examiner shows the subject the cards one at a time and records the subject's responses Subjects are asked to describe what they see in the blots or what they remind them of They are then shown the cards a second time and asked to explain ambiguous responses and to point out the parts of the inkblots that prompted various reactions. The examiner also notes each subject's social behaviour, for example, whether the subject feels challenged or intimidated by the test

Apparently, Rorschach never took his own test. If he had, the test might have revealed an aberration within the personality of its inventor In less than a year, after completing his brilliant treatise, Rorschach began to suffer severe abdominal pains. As a physician he must have known he had an infected appendix. Yet he did nothing When he finally went to the hospital the attending surgeon was astounded that Rorschach had let the ailment progress so far. Rorschach was operated on immediately, but he died the next morning of peritonitis. He was only 37.



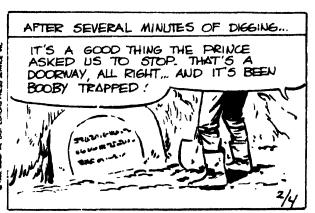






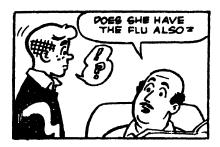
























Maria Maria

MOOSE MILLS

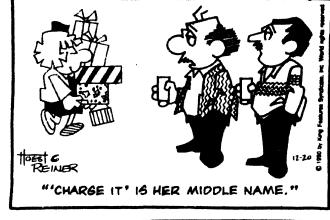


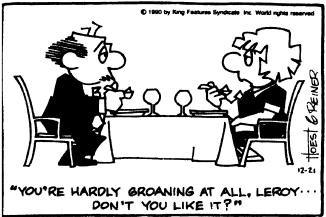








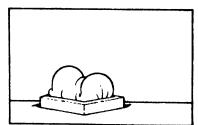






GARFIELD By Jim Davis

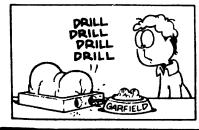


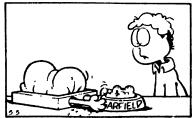


















































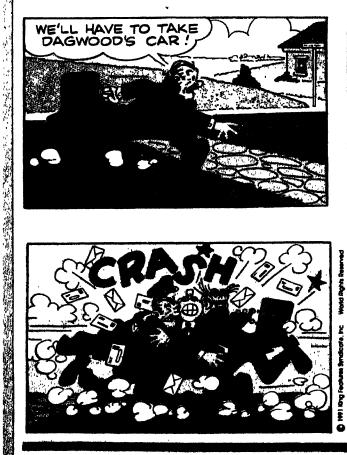




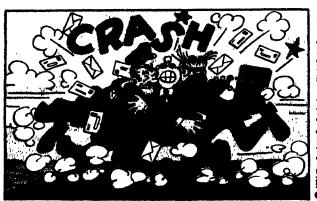


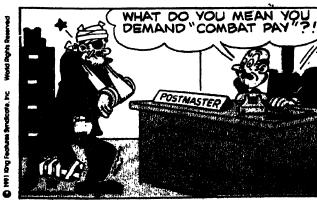




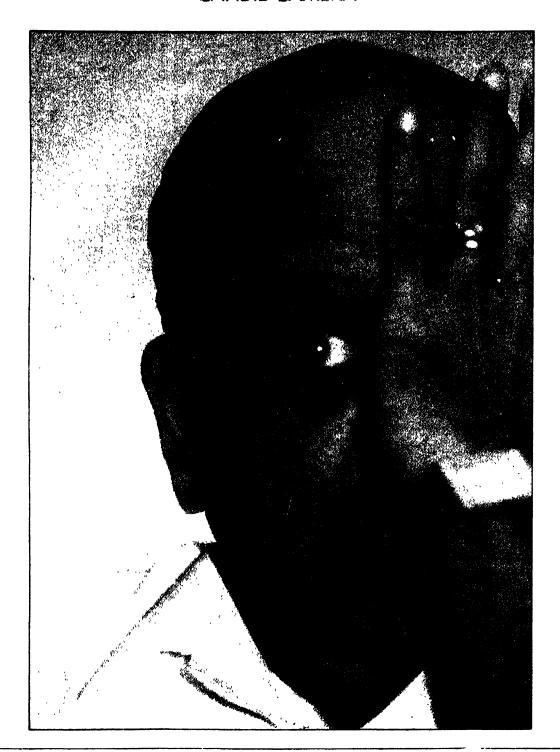








CANDID CAMERA



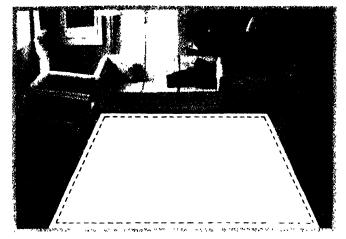
Electing to shoot from the hip, the chief election commissioner

T.N. Seshan said he would "apply to the hilt" all laws in force to make the election free and fair. When warned about the possible rigging in West Bengal, he promised not to turn the Nelson eye on that; in fact he had told the state CEOs to keep their "eyes and ears vigorously open".

Photograph by ALOKE MITRA

DDAY, GIVE EACH OF THESE ROOMS A MATCHING MARBLE FLOOR.

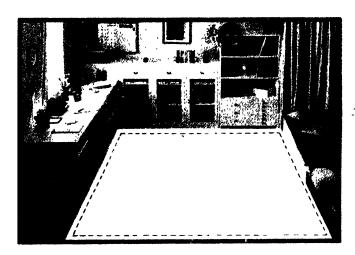
Y TOMORROW, DO THE SAME IN YOUR HOME.

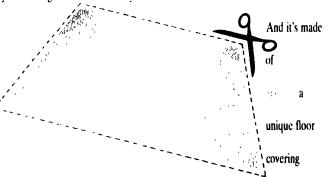


CUT OUT THESE THREE HOORS MAICH HEM TO THE ROOMS ON THE LEFT, AND STICK THEM WHERE THEY LOOK BEST

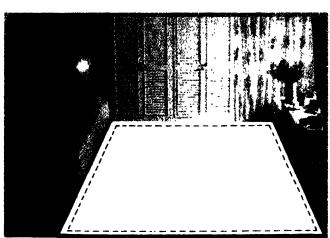
Yes, with Carara, laying down a marble floor in your home is as simple as sticking on the floors in this ad! to see Just get Carara laid over

your existing floor. It'll take only a few hours. No mess, no inconvenience.





containing fine granulated marble. It comes in two exquisite designs and a range of the total shade. What's more, Carara is scratch-resistant. After all it's created



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with the walking a supported of Artifaction, the American floorings giant. So it lasts for years Hurry, call any of our offices today. And stick on a brand new marble floor.

What's so great about my room? It's maha-cool! I share it with Madonna, Snoopy, comics, junk and zappy colours. See my walls? Horizon Blue. Rose Neyron. Julia Green. Special Brick. Radiance. Superlac's Super shades. Real neat. Check it out!



favourite place in the world... My room







POST MORTEM

Voices and **Echoes**

At a time when plagiarism from Western music is the order of the day, Super Cassettes have set a record by giving music lovers hit film songs one after another based on classical and folk music. Gulshan Kumar, the chief of Super Cassettes, deserves all praise for setting this trend.

Among the new voices ('Voice of a New Generation', March 3) he has introduced so far Kumar Shanu promises to be a winner.

Manohar Mandal. Nabadwip

■ The saddest part of the story was Kumar Shanu, the most popular singer today, getting poor coverage photographically. He deserved the cover photograph. It was shocking to see Sapna Mukherjee sprawled all over the cover instead just because of one disgusting Oye, oye number.

Bappi Lahiri's comments about the clones not lasting long is objectionable. These clones are more acceptable than Bappi Lahiri's so-called originality!

Sandeep Dasgupta. Rourkela

■ Bappi Lahiri says that no clone can last for long. But who can forget the great Rafi clone, Mahendra Kapoor, who reached some heights of popularity even while Rafi was singing himself and sang as long as Rafi did. Likewise, Kumar Shanu despite being a copy of Kishore, should be able to survive.

Niladri Chakrabarti. Agartala

■ I don't agree that the Lata 'monopoly' is over. Despite the hordes of new and popular singers. Lata still produced two big hits in Maine Pyar Kiya and Chandni and is as usual lovely in Sanam Bewafaa and Patthar Ke Phool.

The writers should also have touched upon Alisha Chinai and Sadhana Sargam. Among the men, besides Amit Kumar, Kumar Shanu and Udit Naravan. we have Suresh Wadkar and S.P. Balasubramaniam who are also good and popular.

Overall, the article was

not only topical, but well balanced. Dibyendu Ghosh, Burdwan

■ I was disappointed to see that you excluded Suresh Wadkar from the article. In an era of clones, as rightly said in your story, Suresh's voice is quite different and characteristic. Like Kavita Krishnamurthy, his versatility and originality is un-

questioned. Indranil Roy Choudhury, Calcutta

■ The story was incisive. But while it is true that there can never be another Rafi, Kishore or Mukesh, there is no harm in giving newcomers a chance. They may come up with something good like Kumar Shanu (Aashiqui), Udit Narayan (QSQT, Dil) and so on.

It is rightly pointed out that Anuradha's monopoly is just like Lata-Asha's earlier. But even with her superhits, she is still miles behind the Mangeshkar Sisters.

Somen Bose.

Calcutta

Don't Shabbir Kumar, Anwar and Nitin Mukesh belong to the new generation? They, too, are quite popular and deserved a brief mention.

Parvez Hussain. Calcutta

■ Despite the popularity of the new generation singers, not one of them is a complete singer.

In fact, the quality of music has degenerated; Oye, oye and Jumma chooma de de are fine examples of that.

Parthapratim Das, Madhyamgram

■ The new singers were termed 'clones'. I say, so what? They meet the requirements of the new generation listeners.

Amit Mohapatra,

Rourkela

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

5 MAY 1991

Is toyalty, too, going the politician's way? With most of them having switched sides in the earlier years and with their continuing to do so, they have ushered in the era of the Aya Rajas, Gaya



By winning the National Award for best actor in Agneepath, Amitabh Bachchan has proved that even megastars can be megaartistes.

The sea snakes are far deadlier than their land counterparts. A first hand report.

SECTIONS

👫 Heritage 👯 Inner Eye

20 7 Days

23 Junior Whirl

24 Quiz

25 Comics

30 Images

Kumar Shanu: A winner among the clones



LIMELIGHT

AJENISTIS WITHIN

Amitabh Bachchan's fire and fury, with Danny in Agneepath

■ Maybe, the stakes were too high this time for you, Mr Bachchai. But your time will come. Because the numerity is always right. ¬Tro Terrogeom Colour Magazine June 3, 1990.

ardon us this bit of collar upping, but

Aintable Bachchare is the biggest megastar that the Indian tilm meastry has ever seen and is bicely to see in the distant intare. There has never been any disputation this. But that Bachchares also a megaartiste doesn't seem to go down too well with many people who prefet then farit tes not to be stars. This year the National Awards pury has supported the commercial emergia in a big way not only did Anitable with the best actor award for a towering performance, rising above the script with variations and manners at all levels, in Agneepath, but the best actress

ber characterisation of Kinor Bedi in a onanercial film, Kartavezin, and even the Dadasahel. Phalke award, the fingle of non-unim the film industry by the Andlasanerstation the social attachmic Nares.

award was snatched by Viniva Shanthi for

superstat of the social Addition Nages wat Rao

Now, of course, the intellectuals are rubbing all the way to the fine society diffices about precision that To which Againsh himself had in weight years again an interview to India Tomay in a concernitural When he played a copum iz incernitural alleithing estar, he such and when Oral Puri plays a copum Ardh Satra, they all

un a protagonist

One of the saudest things or majore for good cinema was the tailing of Mul. 3.5 Analod's superbly crafter. Agree perbly enhaps it came a bit a rece of its trace. Analog has never been the darling of the masses, turnally enough because of his Westermsed, style of fillimmaking. It out ally, his next film. Hum, where he snowmuch of the hangover of a cherished tain a but which is considerably diluted and sugared, has gone on to be come a runaway at. As an artiste, Amitable's performances far less exacting in Hum, than in Agneepath, but that's the way the kooky audience crumbles.

Ramesh Sippy, the master of motion, actures, even going by one Shokit, resently commented: "It's very tough to satisfy the demands of the audience where Amitabh is concerned. People are so used o seeing him perform one moti shows a ilm after film that you are hard put to tone up with new ideas." Put another way, post-Botors, it Anatable's films fropoed it was because there was nothing new to ofter, and it Agric path flopped, it was because there was something new to ifter

'Amitable and I worked towards creet

By earning the National
Award as best actor for
Agneepath, Amitabh
Bachchan has made a

Bachchan has made a point: that megastars can also be megaartistes. And vindicated our stand last year when the great experiment failed to catch the public fancy



and a special coace quanty for the character in the tier you will bear a different Amitabr. He that a visite dimit has been appreciated by all and here I was trying to change it make it councilling rent. "That was what Makin's Amand had seed at the before the release of Agreeted And attention expense of his or the expense of the seed mose control to reasons the fibric producer Yash rates here this to see completen deteated. The film has taught me one think You can make Amitabh Bach char thin You can make him but You are even make 'are a girl. The audience with accept that But you cannot change his voice. The sourcease will never accept inct." That he precisely what we had

objects of to. That Amarbh is a very fine artiste, apart from being a star, will also be proved in the veries to come.

But here was a tilip which he cook by the scratt of the neck, he had the guts to put aside his biggest asset, his rich barrtone, which is known to make nullions swoon, speeddess and simply gany, and gn, henself a characteristic growl instead. In Shoka, where Annad Khon gave a simiin twist to be dialogue delivery, he was rayed about, but he was coming without a part or the glorious printle of superstar. It is also not without irony that Amitabh, in rist his econo film. Reshina Adi Shera 212. be pieved adding coward and had an and a certable impact till Zargeer and the about young man made changed it all Anniable here was forced to go in for an explanation in a prologue to the film in the third week of its release where he explains to the audience that no, his dialogue wasn't dubbed by anyone else nor have they marked up the sound recording nor was awiting the matter with his vocal chords. He also demonstrates the change as done as the film achberately for a purpose tice, they had to re-dab the whole film with Anatabh' normal voice being used. It was without any precedent that an artiste was compelled by public pressure to do this sort of thing, but eventually whose collect was it, anyway? That has been crosser to the National Award this year! v. Annuable fines elit has said in The Sunday Observer on receiving the award. "Earlier geople life Nascerudam Shah and Shabana azini would get awards for their roles in patallel etterna or art enema', while comtacteso cinema would be ignored.

Anniable had also said in a pre-release interview. "There has been a lot of effort on detailage on mannensins, and in my inpreach to the role, and discerning energies will perhaps notice that." Unfortunately, they didn't. Anniable the artiste had fance to dearly Anniable the star. Then

But, as we had questioned earlier, was the undiscerning response that he got fair to the artiste within? Why, if he is criticised for becoming larger-than life, is he not given a fair chance to show what he is realls worth? Even if the experiment is not really worth, why can't he try and be different without the audiences jumping at his tirous, literally?

Precisely because he was also a megasta. These who had the image of being series actors, ake Sanjeev Kumar, but who were not stars in that sense of the term, could get away with every experimen and show the audiences they were artistes.

It worked on the reverse logic of that sld line that if you were not a communist, there you were a capitalist.

Anil Grover

A GOOD HOLY

For kilometres, the road is clogged with lorries. The thick black smoke of the exhaust furnes is guaranteed to lay a deposit of smoke on the faces of passengers in unlucky cars behind. In summer, the road crawls with tar, while bodies crawl with sweat.

This is not quite the way Rani Rashmoni expected anyone to go to Dakshineswar. When she built it, it was a matter of stepping out of a large house in north Calcutta, if you were one of those people who belonged to a large house, adjusting your Puja silks and stepping down a flight of steps into your mayurpankhi. After that, it was a matter of the wind and the tide.

It is still possible to go to Dakshineswar that way. Not in a *mayurpankhi*, but in a ferry boat, jostling bicycles and people like a overloaded watery minibus. However, few people have the inclination. The car seems to be quicker.

The road winds down Lower Circular Road and over Sealdah. Winds because of the traffic, which flows intermittently and snarls wherever possible. North Calcutta is a place few people see regularly, unless they happen to live or work there. For many people, Bombay is closer, more frequently visited. The crumbling bricks of Calcutta 300 inch past. Raja Somebody Or The Other's Road "Is this anywhere near Amherst Street? I think Rammohun had a house here."

It is even possible to be vague about the whereabouts of the Marble Palace, that cool, pillared place that reeks of hot birds' feathers from the aviary. "What is a beney and what is the difference between a beney and a moira?" For most people, Calcutta 300) is a debit note in some imaginary account book.

The five-point crossing at Shyambazar has Netaji's horse surrounded by flags and banners. Election time makes it the best place to stage a megaphone and blast all Shyambazar with messages. A little way beyond, the Boroline tower sticks blue out of the pollution with its all-weather messages.

It takes over an hour to get there in the slow roll of the road. The reaching almost has a sense of achievement, an expedition feeling about it. People talk about relatives who retired to houses beyond Shyambazar and were thereafter rarely seen again. The mix of buildings is an odd combination of the old and the new, interrupted by the bougainvillaea draped walls of the Indian Statistical Institute some way away.

It's almost one and the afternoon has

not stopped the flow of the traffic though the roads have widened a trifle and a slight village flavour has crept into the surroundings. Temple domes and terracotta red walls are clearly visible.

The worry is that, even if Calcutta is wide awake, Belur and Dakshineswar will be fast asleep. There is an old zamindari jalsaghar near Belur which they say is worth seeing.

Crossing the river, you can see the domes of Dakshineswar and, further down, another set which could be Adyapith. On both sides of the bridge, landing steps lead down to the water.

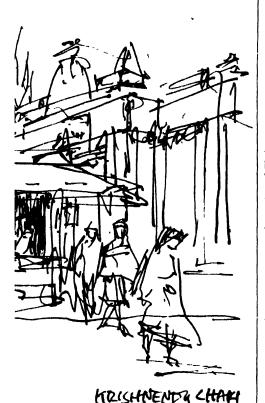
It was an assortment of experiences when she went to visit
Dakshineswar.
Anjana Basu
on her recent trip



People are either bathing or laying out their nets.

En route, under a gulmohur tree beginning to flame, is a mini village. Students from the Government Art College occasionally make forays here to sit under the tree and sketch village studies. Snarled behind the inevitable convoy, you can almost make your own sketches. There are times when it seems, barring the heat, that walking would be faster.

The pleasure house is stuck well away from the main road at the end of a winding track which seems to come straight out of a strip of Ray celluloid. It follows a girl's long braid and the red flutter of her saree as she carries a pile of books under her arm. It follows the balancing act of a bicyclist.



The wind stops at a green enamelled gate. After some rattling, a shaven-headed gatekeeper materialises, rubbing his eyes. This is a rajbarn. No one is allowed in without a permit, specially at sleep time. The owners are away in Calcutta. Only the gardens are free to wander in.

The rajbari is a two-storeyed one, stuccoed white, with blue enamelled pillars decorating the verandahs that run around the house. Charpovs are visible in front of the main door. At 1.30 in the afternoon, with the sun beating down, the official caretaker is stretched out on one under a checked-grey blanket, while a fan whirrs above him. The gatekeeper prods him into alertness with a request that he open the doors of a few rooms

The result is instant fury, an impassioned tirade in Hindi. This is a rajbari, a real rajbari, but the gold and silver have gone. Yes, there was a 'shooting' here once, but the film was shot a long time ago. There is nothing to see and without a letter of introduction from the owners no one is going to open any doors before 4.30. That is the law of West Bengal and it cannot be broken even for Jyoti Basu. Especially when law-abiding caretakers are trying to snatch a well-deserved rest. The gardens are open—they are free to wander in-with which he flounces back into his blankets.

Long, green shutters protect all the verandah doors. A peek between the shutter and a judicious pull at the door reveals a ghostly jalsaghar shrouded in sheets with huge tilted murors glimmering through the gloom. Along the river front, the gardens are fringed by marble pavilions, with an occasional sleeping body. The sun beats down hot and hard on the grass. The temptation to flop into sleep in the cool shadow of a pillar is irresistible.

On the road to the mandir, the shops with their assortment of China figurines, bangles and copper bric a brac, are quiet. The shopkeepers sit back in the shade without even an attempt at a sale. For a bare foot the track to the mandir gate is a sole scorching experience. And, at the end of the hop, the place is discovered shut till 4.30, gods and goddeses sleeping peacefully with the rest of Dakshineswar... Rani Rashmoni's Dakshineswar, Ramakrishna's Dakshineswar, right now hammered by the sun and lit by the startling shapes of two primrose lungied priests with magenta pugris...

The afternoon and the efforts end back in the clog of traffic to Calcutta—this time with a salutory swing through Salt Lake. which has the merit of making the drive a lot faster. Oddly enough, the return is like coming back from a 'change', even though nothing has been done and nothing accomplished beyond a glimpse of a vanished city and a vanished time...



- Study materials: I wish to exchange Brilliant tutorials' IAS coaching papers for '90 in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact Dr Sanjeev Jha, 153/5 A.P.C. Road, Calcutta-700 006.
- Refrigerator: 1 offer a 165 litre refrigerator in good condition for a typewriter in workable condition. Write to R. Dutta, 18-1C Jamir Lane, Calcutta-700 019.
- Tape-recorder: 1 offer a National panasonic taperecorder for anything of corresponding value. Contact Meera Dutta, 18/33 Dover Lane, Calcutta-700 029.
- Camera, LPs, books: I wish to exchange a Himax camera in intmaculate condition, a 78rpm record featuring recitations by Tagore himself, Mira bhajans by Lata (LP), few imported film magazines and books for things of corresponding value. Write to Nirupam Chatteriee, development dept, Stewarts & Lloyds, 41 Chowringhee Road, Calcutta-700 071.
- Magazines: I offer 12 issues of the Readers' Digest ('87-88) in exchange of cricket literature in English, preferably Wisden publications. Contact Sujoy Ghosh, 30/1/H Old Ballygunge First Lane, Calcutta-700 019.
- Record-player: I offer a stereo record-player and some LPs for anything of corresponding value. Contact Pankaj Bhatia, 9/3 Hungerford Street, Calcutta-700 017.
- Guitar, stamps and coins: I would like to exchange a Spanish guitar (Gibtone), about 25 foreign coms and about 400 stamps for a Sony Walkman or anything else of corresponding value. Write to Manoj Kumar, N-84/5 Telco Colony, Jamshedpur, Bihar.
- Stamps: I offer 350 foreign stamps for an air pistol with spring bolt action or 1,000 foreign and Indian stamps for an air pistol with compressed gas firing mechanism and 50 foreign coins for any of the above or anything else of corresponding value. Write to Siddhartha Chowdhury, 55 TS Flats, Road number 8, BH area, Kadma, Jamshedpur-831 005.

THE OTHER JOY



The unit relaxes between takes



Suneeta, her husband and child



The joy of making a film on Calcutta, with most people not even aware of it!

Text and photographs: Arun Ganguly

bscured by the cloud of controversy raised by the shooting of City of Jov. documentary filmmaker Anthony Mayer has quietly finished the shooting of his latest work on Calcutta. Coproduced by the Tatas and the BBC, the film tentatively titled, The Secrets of Calcutta, is intended to be a tribute to the spirit of Calcutta on the occasion of the tercentenary of the city.

In the film, the camera follows a set of six characters from different segments of society, through a period of 24 hours and tries to find out what makes a Calcuttan tick, how he takes care of his personal life in spite of many odds and manages to survive, and most important, how he manages to do that with a smile.





Bob Wright and Rabi Ghose at the Tollygunge Club



Anthony Mayer with his unit

Bapi, a boy from Kalighat, Suneeta, a young married woman who runs a tea stall, Baleshwar, an attendant at one of the burning ghats, Amaliyoti Chowdhuri, a sitarist, film actor Rabi Ghose and well known Calcuttan Bob Wright of the Tollygunge Club, are the six people teatured in this film. The music is by Richard Blackford and forms an important part of the production.

Tony Mayer started making documentaries in the late Sixties while he was in Calcutta. His first film, *The House That Died*, was based on a story by Anees Jung and was shot at Gobardanga near Calcutta. This was followed by *The Lollipop Tree*, a film on Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong,

produced with the purpose of raising funds. In the early Seventies, after the Bangladesh war, Tony made The Children of Fire, which recorded how, led by a 19-yearold youth named Mohsin Ali, the people of a ravaged village in Pabna district were trying (and succeeding) in resurrecting their shattered economy. Then came a massive 13episode documentary, The Crossroads of Civilisation, commissioned by no less a person than the late Shah of Iran himself and also involving internationally known TV host David Frost. The next one was another huge production, The Commanding Seas, produced by the BBC, recording the sea around us in all its

manifestations, both as a wonderous storehouse of nature and man's exploitation of it through trade, commerce and war.

The story on Calcutta was the brainchild of Tapen Barerjee, well known to the film lovers of the city for his association with the film society movement and a long time associate of Tony's. Tapen not only visualised the story but also did the entire research work, assisted by Toby (Tony's son) and by a host of scholars. He also acted as the associate producer to the BBC during the actual filming. Amar-Jeet, the ace cameraman from Delhi, has captured the images.

It was January 1962. An un precedented cold winter of Delhi. My husband and I were very excited for at long last we had booked our tickets for the late right show of the Alfred Hitchcock thriller Psycho.

I was teeling like a bird let out of a cage. After the deliv ery of my third baby it was my first and favourite outing. With suppressed excitement I hus tled and bustled to put the two older children to bed and left the infant in the loving hands of the old ayah. We bade a sedate Good night to the children's aged grandmother tucked away in her own warm room at the back of the house. With her dos and don'ts' and 'come back soon nervous reminders we dashed out of our cosy home in Jor Bagh into the lone ly it eezing night

Wrapped up in comfortable companionship in our car we streaked through to the other end of the city to reach the cinema hall just in time for the movie. It was the film's first week As we raced past the film's hoardings and billboards on the dimly lit lamp posts the words on them struck a chilling chord Deep within me in the eerie cold night - Don't re real the end to your friends, Hitchcock's greatest thriller of his life I he king of mys of his life tery has done it again never to be forgotten crime thriller and He battles him seit in Psycho Psycho! Psyche! Psycho!

Feeling privileged to be among the first few to see the tilm in its first week we hui nedly slid into our seats. I comthe word go the film begin unrolling from one intense moment to another. Then came the gripping scene where the novie's first murder is committed The psycho Norman Bates (Anthony Perkins) has cornered his unaware victim Unet Leigh) bathing nude in the bathtub. We tensely watched the knife edge slowly towards the victim's back fac ing us. Just as the krite slices through the shower curtain and swittly pierces her flesh an ear splitting scream rents the tur

Just then the whole of the

WELL AND TRULY SHAKEN

upper balcony where we were sitting swung severely first to the right then to the left and then again to the right. A stunned pause followed broken by the loud thudding of our heart beats. I verybody in the hall got up like robots from their seats and in a hypnotised man

Hitchcock's Psycho could really leave you quaking

ner uttered a low gutteral sound Farthquake Howev er everyone recovered simul tane ously. Then laughing sheepishly in unison, we all sat down

As the movie proceeded our rational nature began to

have a tussle with the irration al one. Was it really in earth quake. How can an earthquake time itself so perfectly to the first stab of the knife in the first victim's back.

Hitchcock is a master thriller It was a psychic effectione atted by him. This must be the secret he had isked us not to reveal to others. But the floor of the balcony had actually swing. I swear I saw it with my own eyes—whispered the igitated mind hercely.

The whispers became stage whispers and slowly people began creeping out in ones and twos Soon the hall took on the look of a haphazardly caten bhutta (corn on the cob)

By the time the film ended and the lights came on we were among the handful of stubboin viewels who is mined till the end to get their money's worth

Still dazed by the last but not the least horrifying scene where the director swiftly turns the stuffed skeleton of the psycho's long dead mother towards the audience with the gaping holes in its skull staining blankly into the fear stricken eyes of the viewers we criwled back into the sife haven of our car slowly we came back to reality

Did I say reality Sife haven. We could not have driven for more than 15 minutes and the car was swerving gently to take a curve or the road, when the road shifted severely first to the left then right and then to the citt again. Both of us felt were driving down a hur pin bend from Shimla to Kilka and not from Connaught Place to Jor Bagh.

This time we were sure it was no Hitchcock trick. We ilso became aware of the harsh reality waiting for us at home.

As we expected there was bedlim everywhere. The usually quiet street of our colony was all noise and light Pinic stricken, we dished into our hou c to find lights on everywhere but nobody in the bedrooms. Learne the worst we ran to the back county and to find complete lying outside under the cold dark sky. The children were on one cet ind their grandmother on the other slavering beneath the quilts Seeing us she let all hell loose Consoling her on one hand cradling our offspring on the other and pacitying the hysterical mah we thanked the Almighty for having saved us and our dear ones from a worse fate than just a chill and a mild ps chological shock which a spoonful of brandy and lots of loving hugs dissolved in no time

That tearful right left a deep impact on my psyche. The fear psychosis of an Anthony Perkins crime thriller and an ear thquake y high Hitchcock and God synchronised so beautifully tool root timby in my fertile imagination. I never saw another Anthony Perkins or Alfred Hitchcock til n after Psycho.

Shukla Lal

Psycho: The all-time scare





PRATIMA TAGORE (1893-1969)



Daughter-in-law of Rabindranath Tagore, Pratima Tagore was born to Seshendra Bhusan Chatterjee and Binoyini Devi on November 5, 1893 in Calcutta. Her mother was Abanindranath Tagore's sister. Pratima Devi, who was widowed at an early age, was re-married to Rathindranath Tagore, eldest son of Rabindranath. Along with her husband and father-in-law, she was associated with various activities of Visva Bharati. She played a prominent part in introducing different forms of

handicrafts at Santiniketan and her contributions to Tagore dance-dramas are worth mentioning

Pratima Devi authored several books of which Nirban is based on the last years of Tagore, Smritchitra is about Rabindranath and Abanındranath, and Nritya, on dance forms that were prevalent at Santiniketan during her time. Chitralekha, her book of poems and articles, is also quite popular. She was also an artist of repute.

After the death of Tagore,

Pratima Devi shouldered the responsibility of carrying out the Poet's incomplete tasks at Visva Bharati. She was issueless and adopted Nandini, a Gujarati by birth, as her daughter. Nandini figures is some of Tagore's later works. Pratima Devi died on January 9, 1969.

The sketch above shows her father's north Calcutta residence at 34/1 Beadon Street which is now occupied by Shuvo Mukherjee, son of Abanindranath Tagore's eldest daughter Uma Devi.

INNER EYE Dejan Daruwalla



RIES

March 21 April 20 Finance and romance make a team now

and that is simply great! A wish fulfilment is possible. This month is for negotiations socialising trading, commission, brokerage and investments. There will be a singing bird in your heart and tinkling bells in your eyes. A shift or a major move is within the realms of possibility

AURUS April 21 - May 20 The moon's quarter

will make you work hard, enjoy like a king and around May 8-10 expect good results. Time to press the advantage nome. You will find time for romance despite heavy work pressures Finance will be the dominant factor now You will have enough money. Work and group activity may necessitate travel



EMINI

May 21 June 20 Those in research, science technology.

publishing and the arts do wonderfully well but expenses will take their toll. Romance will be sizzling hot during the first three days Finance involves a jobhop, collaborations importexport and research in marketing or sales. Your health could cause a problem or two, so take proper care



ANCER

June 21-July 20 Money, loans, joint finances and your

charms which can even tame tigers and crocodiles characterise the week in romance, you will have some fun in the latter half of the week. The scope to augment your finances should make you happy and secure Plenty of contacts and communications are foretold



July 21 -- August 21 Publicity, ceremony

collaborations are the main trends of the week. Around May 10 matters come to a head Romance will be bitter-sweet and rather costly Despite competition, contracts and important documents will be signed. Health safeguards are absolutely essential Commuting and overseas trips are foretold Neighbours pitch in and community and social welfare service will entice you





















IRGO

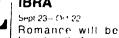
August 22 Sept 22 Slight health hassies and differences with colleagues and subordinates are

possible. On the pleasant side there will be socialising new ventures and partnerships at all levels. Romance will certainly be your birthright thanks to Venus In finance, your career graph takes an upward slant. Expect money to pour in



IBRA

fused with finance and socialising, with a round of hard work and it could well be time for a major move or shift in romance letters and calls are



change in their fortune **APRICORN**

Dec 21 - Jan 19 Music, money and

obviously a part of gallivanting! Finance includes loans, invest-

ments, joint-finances, business

in bulk, chemicals and sale of

consumer items, printing and

CORPIO

Oct 23- Nov 22

on and after May 8 May 8, 9, 13

and 14 will be eventful in romance, lady love smiles upon

you but there could be a few

entanglements which have to be

sorted out first. Finance prom-

ises sales, purchase, construc-

tion and housing, also gas and

AGITTARIUS

The main trends of

the week are a trip

Nov 23 Dec 20

ties, signing of deeds docu-

ments and a possible promotion

or a job-switch. Take care of the

health of pets and subordinates

There may be a danger of thefts

or misplacing of valuables. In ro-

mance, you will have your hands

full. The employed and the pro-

fessionals should find a sizeable

This week the home

front will need a little care and tact. Work will be done

publishing

gadgetry

artistic activity children and hobbies education and speculation, amusements and perks should excite you in romance there will be a white heat, but competition is probable. Despite expenses and high cost of living you will succeed in living comfortably, even lux-



QUARIUS

Jan 20- Feb 18 Personal and domestic factors come to the

fore this week. Shortly the work front, too, will be fully activated making it too difficult to hold the scales even. So budget your time. Romance is not ruled out, better iron out your personal wrinkles and posers



ISCES

Feb 19 March 20 Trips romance

creativity kids and hobbies give immense deligiit this week Romance is an important feature of the month. Bright prospects of making money or launching a new line of activity are foreseen. You will have the strength and the stamina for everything

BIRTHDAYS

May 5

No strong aspect: It will be best to be organised and manage your affairs in a systematic manner Opportunities for advancement are certain September onwards you will fare even better in terms of travel, trade job and profession. This is the time to make important decisions

May 6

Moon conjunction Saturn This conjunction means that you need to work extra hard, put you shoulder to the wheel and pay attention to details. A separation is possible. You will have to steel yourself to circumstances and develop fortitude Given that nothing is impossible

May 7

Moon's last quarter Journey expenses, secret affairs and an eagerness to make the best of life and luck will characterise 1991-92. In August, you must learn to sateguard your health Home influences and domestic directions are particularly strong in this birthyear. It would be best to be prepared for everything

May 8

Moon trine Venus. This trine sig-

nifies good luck in love, games of chance, beautifying the home and buying or selling of goods and materials Those in importexport, garments chemicals, trading and cosmetics do remarkably well. Time to shoot.

May 9

Moon trine Pluto Luck rides with you Friends, romance and money are the promising aspects of life. But that does not mean that you can be idle. You too must help your destiny by making tremendous efforts to achieve what you want Always be charitable to the poor

May 10

Sun opposition Pluto This opposition should spur you to be tenacious and relentless in the pursuit of happiness. Home and property come under the influence of fate. Your mate or partner may however prove rather troublesome But that is all in the game of life. Do not lose heart

May 11

Moon square Neptune-Uranus. You may begin badly, but given grit and imagination there is not reason why you should not end up doing pretty well. If on a journey or a major venture, verify and double-check everything, right from the vehicle to the plans you will eventually present

THE CHANGING FACE OF

va Ram Gaya Ram is the slogan that epitomises the turnous politician. A greedy, opportunistic politician of the orab what he can wheeler-dealer, out to grab what he can while the going is good. And when it is over, make for greener pastures.

Hardly the image one associates with Indian royalty, though. The blue-blooded gentry living in stately mansions built by their forefathers. Leading a gracious life with the comforts of imported cars, holidays in the Alps or Cote D'Azur. Hardly ever in need of supplements to their royal income. Even if they were in politics, it was only for their yearning to remain in the limelight.

But is the image slowly changing?

Is Indian royalty going the way of the Indian politician? A spate of switches in the recent past have shown the nation that erstwhile princes and assorted blueblooded descendants, who pledged loyalty to their political parties, are now playing by the same principle of loyalty on which their forefathers built entire kingdoms.

Perhaps Srikantadatta Nara-simharaja Wadiyar, scion of the illustrious Mysore royal family, is a prime example. Wadiyar's father, the noble Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar, was known as an extremely benevolent king. He ruled Mysore with an iron hand, but left behind a

Is royalty, too, going the way of the typical Indian politician? With an increasing number of the blue-blooded switching sides to suit their convenience, it now seems an era of Aya Raja Gaya Raja

legacy of goodwill for his son to reap. The younger Wadiyar, who has been in politics since 1984 and was twice Congress(I) MP from Mysore, created a big stir a few weeks ago when he changed to BJP col-

Wadiyar's decision came as a big shock to the Karnataka Congress(I) and the party high command. Both had been sitting on Wadiyar's resignation letter for more than

Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar: And now it's the BJP



a week, on the premise that Wadiyar would not take such a drastic decision. He was sure to be renominated for the Mysore seat and it was an extremely safe one for the Congress(I), so why would he quit? But the Raja called the Congress(I) bluff and walked out.

In the Sixties, the Swatantra Party used to be a haven for those of royal lineage. When the privy purses were abolished and their luxurious lifestyles threatened, most found their way into the Congress and stayed there. Their political links made many of them more secure, what with the threat of state governments and the income tax department hungrily eyeing royal assets. But when political connections did not guarantee such security, royalty decided it could also jump the fence.

Wadiyar came into the Congress(I) in 1984 with a flurry of filmstars, celebrities and blue-blooded gentry. Wadiyar who, until then, had been running palacesturned-hotels and breeding race horses, came into the thick of politics. He won the Mysore seat for the Congress(I) twice with huge margins. The Congress(I) base and his royalty tag ensured that he won both times with a margin of over two lakhs.

However, Wadiyar's alienation within the Congress(I) started the very day he won his 1984 Lok Sabha election. At the local level, there was considerable resentment that old faithfuls had been bypassed to make way for a comparative greenhorn. Wadiyar lived, and still does, in the Mysore Palace far from the madding crowd. "He has absolutely no touch with the commoners," was the constant complaint of the local Congressmen.

But the well-read, influential Wadiyar did perform passably well in the Lok Sabha. He was always attentive to the state's problems and, in a couple of cases, used his royal weight to bag projects for his constituency. At the same time, however, Wadiyar's Congress connections did not stand him in good stead. The tamily's huge property in the heart of Bangalore was settled by the Karnataka high court after decades of dispute. But the Congress(1) state government would not grant exemption under the Urban Land Ceiling Act to convert the real estate gold

into buildings.

The family property has had the IT men hounding the Wadiyar heirs and even Wadiyar's entry into the Congress(I) brought no respite. The state government even went to the extent of collecting tax on the gate fee at the Mysore Palace. And then came the threat that the movable property of the wealthy family would be attached by the income tax department. Members of the family began to nurse the distinct feeling that Wadiyar not only gained nothing from joining the Congres-



Dinesh Singh: Double Congress take

s(l), he was even beginning to lose because of it.

Though Wadıyar has never gone on record, his close friends confided that he was beginning to feel neglected in the Congress(I). "Look at the prominence someone like Madhavrao Scindia gets in that party. Wadiyar has never been given his royal due," one of them said. Even as local political intrigues increased and several important Congressmen in Mysore ganged up against him and began a campaign to deny him the party ticket, Wadiyar threw in the towel. For the record, he said he was quitting in disgust. "I am disillusioned with the Congress(I) and its leaders both at the state and national level. The party has got to the stage where I cannot explain my loyalty to my voters anymore, Wadiyar said, substantiating his action. But what was indeed a great temptation was the sudden prominence that the BJP was promising him.

Wadiyar's entry into the BJP was accomplished by another prominent blue-blooded politician, Vijayaraje Scindia. The BJP, determined to make full use of his background, is planning to use him to campaign extensively in the old Mysore areas where his father's subjects live. And should the BJP come into power Wadiyar has been promised nothing less than a Cabinet berth.

Royal houses have been taking an interest in politics since Independence. But as an old timer says, "Their participation in politics is not guided by national interest but is an outcome of their personal compulsions. That is why most of the royal politicians vacillate between one political party and the other."

The recent illustration is the case of Maharana of Mewar, Mahendra Singh. (The tiles of Raja, Maharaja and Maharana which were constitutionally recognised earlier were subsequently derecognised by amending the Constitution, but these ex-princes not only continued to use the titles but also insist on being addressed thus.) When Mahendra Singh went to

court against his father, this had annoyed the late Maharana so much that while executing his will Bhagwat Singhji deprived Mahendra Singh of all benefits from the princely property. The late Maharana went on record to say that Mahendra Singh's "dishonest nature is bound to reflect on the great traditions of the family and the name of the Maharana". Calling his heir apparent a liar, the late Maharana observed in his will, "Maharaj Kumar Mahendra Singh still lives in a world of unreality." The Maharana formed several trusts of his property and made his younger son. Arvind Singh, the managing trustee of all the trusts, endowing for all practical purposes the entire property of the Maharana to him. Mahendra Singh had hardly visualised such an extreme step from his father and as luck would have it Bhagwat Singhii died a premature death a little after signing the will.

Mahendra Singh with the support of some of the feudal jagirdars and the Congress leaders of the Mewar region organised a Raj Tilak ceremony and became 'Maharana' but without the kingdom or the property attached to it which was in the direct control of his younger brother Arvind Singh. In a bid to gain control of the property against the will of the late Maharana, Mahendra Singh hobnobbed with the then Congress(I) rulers. He issued appeals to the voters of Mewar region in 1984 parliamentary and subsequent Vidhan Sabha elections to vote for the Congress(I) candidates since, "the relations which my grandfather had with Prime Minister Jawaharlalji is a matter of history.

father, Bhagwat Singhji, too, had cordial relations with Jawaharlalji and his daughter, Indira. In this way my family has always had very good relations with the Nehru family and I wish to continue the same."

Congress(I) won hands down in the par-

Both used to respect each other. My

liamentary elections, so when the state went to the Assembly polls, Mahendra Singh added Rajiv Gandhi's name in his appeal to the voters to vote for Congress(I) candidates since "the young Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has pledged to take the country forward through a clean administration. So I feel that the principles and policies of Rajiv Gandhi should win."

Congress(I) returned to power, but Mahendra Singh's aspirations could not be fulfilled. The Congress rulers told Mahendra Singh that as the dispute over his family property had already gone to court there was hardly anything they could do to restore the property to him. In a further development the Congress(I) government in the state allowed Arvind Singh to take possession of Sambhu Niwas Palace which had been sealed by the district administration when Mahendra Singh had forcibly

tried to evict his younger brother. This was the end of his relations with the Congress(I).

Seeing the wind blowing in favour of the non-Congress(I) parties, Mahendra Singh hopped across to the Opposition. He convinced the present Raiasthan chief minister Bhairon Singh Sekhawat that he had been innocent and that his younger brother was squandering away the property worth crores of rupees. The Eklingii Trust affair was sub judice and the court had already appointed a committee to verify stocks of the trust, but there was no progress in preparing the inventory. Eklings had been the ruling desty of the Mewar kingdom and the Maharanas used to consider themselves as 'Musahibs' (ministers) of Eklingii. The deity has a vast following in the whole of Mewar. Sekhawat organised a grand rally to take full benefit of this emotional subject in which a large number of Eklingii devotees participated. The rallyists, including Mahendra Singh and Sekhawat, staged a padyatra from Eklingii temple to Udaipur town, demanding early completion of stock verifica-

Mahendra Singh joined the BJP with much fanfare as he was convinced that the Congress(I) and Rajiv Gandhi had failed to fulfil the aspirations of the people and contested as BJP candidate from Chittorgarh constituency. Though the Eklingii temple does not fall in Chittorgarh constituency, he started his election campaign with the darshan of Eklingii and taking an oath there before thousands of supporters that henceforth he would not change his party. He had a landslide victory

But in less than a year he ended his courship with the BJP. The reason: "BJP is a party which brings religion into politics."

The real cause, however, lay somewhere else. As chief minister Sekhawat says, "Did he not know what type of a party BJP was while joining the party and contesting the Lok Sabha on its ticket? In fact, Mahendra Singh's disenchantment with the BJP was because of the fact that he could not get the property of Eklingi."

In fact, Mahendra Singh has been inconsistent in his behaviour from the beginning. Though he won the Lok Sabha seat from Chittorgarh as the BJP candidate, he laboured hard against BJP candidates in the Assembly elections that followed in at least three constituencies. It is another matter that none of the candidates he supported could win. Last month, he joined the Congress(I) again.

Bhawani Singh of Jaipur, too, is embroiled in property disputes within his family including Rajmata Gayatri Devi. In 1984 Bhawani Singh was offered candidature for the Lok Sabha from Jaipur by the

Congress(I). As he was not very sure about Congress(I) prospects, he vacillated but finally said no The Congress(I) came out victorious and so it was a time of remorse for the ex-Maharaja. So, during the Assembly elections in 1985, Bhawani Singh voluntarily came forward with an offer to help the Congress(I). But the party ignored him. In 1989, however, he got a Congress(I) ticket, but met with a crushing defeat at the hands of an ordinary BJP worker His stepmother, Rajmata Gayatri Devi, openly supported the BJP candidate against him. Surprisingly, in the February 1990 Assembly elections, the Rajmata changed her stance and openly opposed the BJP candidate in the Sanganer constituency. It was another matter that the candidate she supported lost his secur ity deposit despite her vigorous campaigning Bhawani Singh has now refused to contest the parliamentary elections even though he has again been offered a Congress(I) ticket Insiders know very well that Bhawani Singh has been trying to woo the present Rajasthan chief minister, Bhairon Singh Sekhawat, for quite some time. He has been seen more than once at the chief minister's official residence closeted with Sekhawat. Will be join the BIP fold?

The behaviour of the Bharatpur family, too, has not been less curious. The ex-Maharaja, **Brijendra Singh**, had con tested and won the Bharatpur Lok Sabha seat as an Independent. His son, **Vishwendra Singh**, has made history by changing sides so often. He became the Zilla Pramukh of Bharatpur in 1989 as a Congress(I) candidate though the party did not get a majority in Zilla Parishad. A couple of months later, he resigned from the Congress(I) and accepted a Janata Dal ticket for the Bharatpur Lok Sabha seat.

Gayatri Devi: Should I look this way now?



Natwar Singh, who was to contest from the same constituency on a Congress(I) ticket for the second term fled to Mathura and Rajesh Pilot was pitted against him. Natwar Singh iost in Mathura and Pilot was grounded in Bharatpur. Pilot had been the mentor of Vishwendra Singh and was lured into the Congress(I) fold by him during the Zilla Parishad elections, little knowing that his own disciple would turn into an be enemy. Vishwendra Singh resigned his Lok Sabha seat in protest against the Mandal Commission policy of the V.P. Singh government. Vishwendra has since come back to the Congress(I) fold

Another member of the royal family of Bharatpur, **Krishendra Kaur** ahas Deepa, was elected to the Rajasthan Assembly as an Independent candidate in a byelection from Deeg in place of her father, Raja Man Singh, who was killed by the police in cold blood while he was campaigning in 1985. Deepa had declared the Congress(I) and Shiv Charan Mathur (dur ing whose chief ministership Raja Man Singh fell a victum to police bullets) her enemy number one. But torgetting all her vows she went against the Opposition and voted for a Congress(I) candidate in the Raiya Sabha and that, too demonstratively In the political upheaval in Nevember last. Deepa sided with the Janata Dal breakaway group led by Digunai Singh, deserting Janata Dal. Deepa's cousin, Arun Singh, too, has been changing sides from time to time. Though he had joined the Janata Dal in 1989, he went all the way from Bharatpur to Mathura to support Natwar Singh

The Rajmata of Jodhpur, Krishna Kumari, had won the Jodhpur Lok Sabha seat in 1971 as an Independent. Her son, Gaj Singh, has been elected to the Rajya Sabha as a BJP candidate. Krishna Kumari has been pursuing anti-Congress policies, but now she has suddenly changed her stance for the sake of her daughter who has been a Congress(I) MP from Himachal Pradesh. This time she wished to be elected from the Jodhpur constituency of Rajasthan and sought her mother's blessings. When Gaj Singh came to know of this, he opposed the move. This gave birth to a rift in the Jodhpur royal house and Gaj Singh went abroad in disgust. Ostensibly for participating in an exhibition in London where a tent awarded to the Jodhpur family by the British is being displayed.

The Maharaja of Kota, **Brijraj Singh**, was a Congress(I) MP from Jhalawar, but in the subsequent elections of 1967 and 1971 he was elected on a Jan Sangh ticket from the same constituency.

Most curious is the case of the **Thakur** of **Banera**, a scion of the Mewar family. He created history by becoming the

youngest Member of Parliament when he was elected on a Jan Sangh ticket in 1971. But that is not the only record to his credit. He has been changing parties so often that it is difficult to say which party he belongs to at a given time. After win ning the Lok Sabha seat from Bhilwara as a Jan Sangh candidate. Banera switched to the Congress(I) during Emergency When Emergency was lifted and the Janata Party came to power he also swung from Con gress to Janata Party. With the change of government he again changed to Congress s(I) in 1980. Maintaining the record Hamendra Singh joined the Janata Dal and again went to Parliament True to his tradition he voted for V P Singh in Parlia ment when the Lok Sabha discussed a confidence motion tabled by the then Prime Minister But once V P Singh lost he changed sides and voted in favour of Chandra Shekhar As a result he was dis qualified from the Lok Sabha membership by Speaker Rabi Ray Reports have it that Banera is nowadays desperately trying to jump onto the Congress(I) bandwagon like his mentor Mahendra Singh of Mewar

The late Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur was the founder president of the Swatantra Party in Rajasthan. He was elected MLA on a Swatantra Party ticket m 1967 and 1972 and was leader of the Opposition In 1977 he fought the election on a Janata Party ticket and was elected Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha. Despite remaining on such high party and Vidhan Sabha posts. Laxman Singh joined the Congress and was again elected MLA from Chittorgath As luck would have it it proved to be the list election of his life since he died in June 1989 just eight months before the new Vidhan Sabha was

formed

The only thing which can be said about the political behaviour of these royal politicians is that they have always been consistently inconsistent

The royals as a group still retain a L certain amount of respect and support in the areas to which they belong which gives them the confidence to shift their political affiliation according to the require ments of the fluid political situation. The same core of loyal support also provides them entry and at times re entry into poli tical parties

The central UP principality of Kalakank ar was among the earliest supporters of the Congress movement and was active in the Freedom Movement The Raja of Kalakankar Ram Pal Singh attended the Calcutta session of the Congress in 1886 but when the Congress party lost power at the Centre in 1977 the scion of the Kala kankar family Raja Dinesh Singh parted company with the Congress to join the Janata Party

The suave dapper Dinesh Singh ven tured into politics, foregoing his job in the diplomatic service in 1957 at the instance of Pandit Nehru. In 1967, 1971, 1984, and 1989 he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from the Pratapgarh constituency. In the aftermath of Emergency Dinesh Singh lost the election Within a couple of months of the Janata Party government being formed the Raja had a change of faith and had joined the Janata Party with a small group of followers Shortly thereaf ter the Raja was elected to the Rajya Sabha on the Janata nomination

When the Congress(I) came back to power in 1980 Dinesh Singh began mend ing his fences with the old party. To his credit he never criticised Indira Gandhi personally unlike many others who had left the Congress at that time Even his letter of resignation from the Congress was a brief protest against misuse of authority his personal relations with the Gandhi family remained cordial In mid 1980 Sanjay Gandhi sinsistence got him the Congress nomination for the Rajya Sabha (the earlier term was a two year one)

Dinesh Singh's double switch from the Congress to the Janata Party and back to the Congress was a relatively painless homecoming compared to **Dr Karan** Singh s travels on the same path around the same time From Sadar i Riyasat (Re gent) of Kashmir and the governor of the state Dr Karan Singh became Member of Parliament from the Udhampur consti tuency in 1967 and again in 1971 1977 and 1980 Though he won the 1977 elections on a Congress ticket Dr Karan Singh cast his lot with the Chavan group In 1979 he joined the Charan Singh government as education minister and was re elected

from Udhampur in 1980

Dr Karan Singh never did get back into Mrs Gandhi s good books and did not con test elections in 1984. His main activity then focused on his other interests, in 1981 he spearheaded the Virat Hindu Samai, a movement against undesirable customs which have weakened the Hindu society. It was after his son's grand wed ding to Madhavrao Scindia's daughter in 1988 which brought him back into the close centre of Congress(I) circles A year later he was appointed ambassador to Washington by the Rajiv Gandhi govern ment for the coming election the Con gress(I) had wished to pit him against L K Advant from the New Delhi constituency where his image as a scholar and an activ ist for the Hindu society would have been an asset But Dr karan Singh declined the offer

To story on royalties is complete with-Yout the Scindias, one of the biggest princely orders in the country whose influ

ence is spread over several districts of Madhya Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan The Scindia state which was one of the richest royalties only after Kashmir and Hyderabad always aspired for political power The combined Scindia might had been once so influential that it pulled down a state government The Samvid Vidyayak Dal (SVD) government headed by Pandit DP Mishra, was a victim of the Gwalior family anger Vijayaraje Scindia joined the Congress(I) soon after the death of Jiwajirao Scindia the erstwhile

Madhavrao Scindia: The right stance nov



ruler of Gwalior. Mrs Scindia was granted the Congress(I) ticket from the Guna parliamentary constituency in 1957. Madhavrao Scindia was then a minor and therefore had no role whatsoever in politics.

The Swatantra Party, mostly comprising ex-rulers, fell a natural choice for Vijayaraje Scindia and she contested once again from the Guna seat. She polled 78.8 per cent votes and beat her nearest Congress(I) rival, D.K. Jadhav. Madhavrao Scindia, the only son of Vijayaraje, joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and fought from





Vijayaraje Scindia: Bowing to her own wishes

the Guna seat vacated by his mother. Mrs Scindia, meanwhile, contested from the Bhind parliamentary seat. Madhavrao Scindia was returned elected with over 69 per cent votes. It is interesting to see how the son had turned towards the Congress(I) whereas he had once been totally opposed to the party. Returned fresh from Oxford, he found his parents supporting the Congress(I)—totally an unexpected proposition. But while Vijayaraje Scindia turned to the BJP the son switched to the Congress(I).

The mother was angry and was annoyed with Mrs Gandhi as she decided to withdraw the privy purse allowed to ex-rulers. She became an ardent critic of the Congress and got so involved with the Jana Sangh and its ideology that subsequently she rose to become the vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the newer incarnation of the Sangh. Mrs Scindia, who is highly religious, got involved with the Ramjanmabhumi-Babri Masjid controversy. The son on the other hand rose to become a minister in Rajiv Gandhi's Cabinet. He was the minister for railways and enjoyed the reputation of being the only minister whose portfolio was not changed throughout the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi.

The Scindia princely family spreads from the north to the western edge of Madhya Pradesh, involving over a dozen parliamentary constituencies. But its influence is more or less concentrated to Gwalior, Guna and Bhind.

Why did Madhavrao Scindia get attracted to the Congress(I)? His dispute with his mother which originated over the sharing of assets is well-known. Was it one of the reasons for him to automatically go to another party or did he actually believe in the ideology of the Congress(I)? Undoubtedly he rose to become one of the close confidants of Raiiv Gandhi, and made

a name as a high-profile minister with his heart in technology and efficiency.

Madhavrao Scindia has now successfully roped in Lokendra Singh, descendent of the former Panna state into his party. The Panna state originally fell under Rewa principality, but Scindia has been trying to woo him for quite some time. Lokendra Singh won the 1989 election against the Congress(I) candidate, Dal Chandra Jain, ex-MP and a bidi magnate. Lokendra Singh was feeling frustrated within the BJP as the party was not prepared to listen to his grievances. Although Lokendra Singh's supporters claim that he was unhappy with the policies of the Congress(I), the reasons lay elsewhere. Singh was unhappy over the appointment of two ministers, a backward and a Jain in the Patwa government. Kusum Mehdale, a Lodhi by caste, and Jayant Mallya, a Jain, were appointed ministers in the Sunderlal Patwa govern-

Lokendra Singh wanted these ministers replaced by his supporters. This did not happen. When another disenchanted BJP MP, Shankar Khatiq, went on a hunger strike, protesting against the chief minister in Sagar, Lokendra Singh almost joined him. He was dissuaded by senior BJP leaders. While Khatiq has been denied a ticket by his party, Lokendra Singh left the party with the hope that he would be able to secure a Congress(I) ticket. This also did not materialise. Dal Chandra Jain, said to be close to Sitaram Kesari, the Central observer in charge of Madhya Pradesh, managed the ticket.

So, this is how the Aya Ram Gaya Ram philosophy in Indian politics is filtering through to royalty, foo, and introducing a new philosophy—that of the Aya Raja Gaya Raja.

Milap Chand Dandia, Saritha Rai, Shubha Singh and S. Srinivasan

PANORAMA

Yes, said the expedition leader, the blue-banded sea snakes that we were about to go swimming with are indeed some of the world's deadliest.

But they have very small mouths, he laughed, so they usually bite people only on the skin between their fingers or on their ear lobes. If they did get a gnp on one of those tender areas, he noted, we could have just 10 minutes to review our lives.

No antidote was available.

The venom of all sea snakes is more poisonous than that of any land snake, scientists say. One drop can kill three men. Death comes slowly by asphyxiation,

as the skeletal muscles are paralysed. Well, I've always believed that one should die doing what one enjoys.

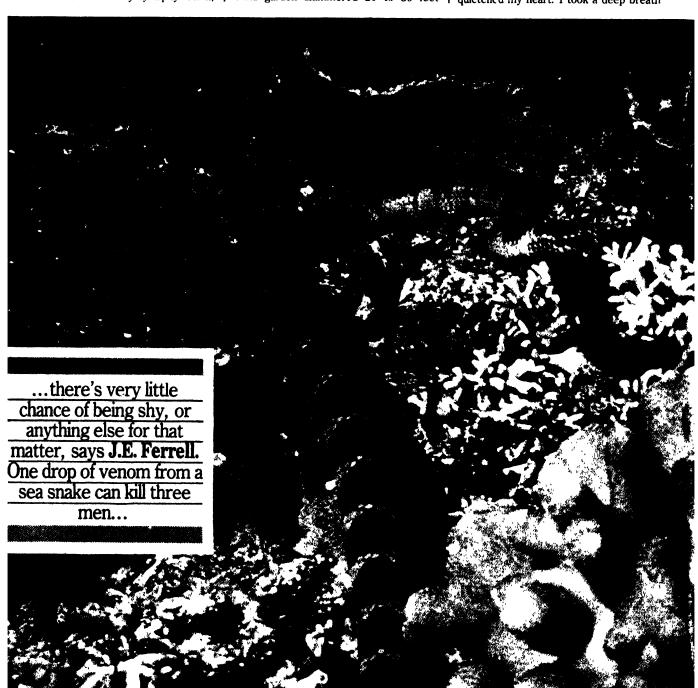
Travelling on an expedition ship among the islands of eastern Indonesia qualified. I was one of four snorkelers who resolved to rub shoulders, so to speak, with the sea snakes in the 30-foot-deep waters adjacent to the island.

"The snakes are here," said a staff member as we boarded the zodiac inflatable boat. "I've been watching them come to the surface." Heart pounding, I jumped in and began twirling, taking in a 360-degree view about once every second. A coral garden shirnmered 20 to 30 feet

below in clear water with 60-foot visibility.

Sea snakes, the largest three to four feet long, their blue bands vivid against their dark-gray skin in the early-morning light, undulated gracefully among the red, orange and purple coral. They poked their heads into cracks and crevasses looking for their meals: tiny fish and eels. Some oscillated slowly to the surface, took a breath or two, swung into reverse for a few ripples, lowered their heads, and propelled by their flat tails, swam among shafts or sunlight toward the coral.

In any direction seven or eight swam leisurely into view. Their slow rhythms quietened my heart. I took a deep breath



and plunged toward them. I watched in horror as a sea snake approached a scuba diver dallying motionless at coral formation 30 feet below. His brightly flowered swim trunks, which looked like coral, obviously attracted the snake as it swam up his leg.

Before I could scream an ineffectual warning the scuba diver unknowingly whapped the snake in the head with his flipper. He's going to die, I thought.

The snake shook its head and undulated away. I watched another snorkeler attract the attention of a snake, which slowly approached until the diver blocked its advance with his swim fin. The snake flicked the fin with its tongue and turned away.



About 50 species of sea snakes exist, all in the Pacific Ocean. They have been seen at depths of 100 to 150 reet and can hold their breath for hours when they're inactive. The snakes at Gunungapi surfaced every few minutes. Since the creatures they eat are found everywhere, the snakes' limited distribution is a mystery, says marine biologist John McCosker, director of San Francisco's Steinhart Aquarium. Not until I'd left the water did I learn some relieving facts about sea snakes. They've bitten very few people, it turns out. Those who have been bitten, mostly island fishermen, either stepped on or grabbed a snake accidentally.

Often, says Dr H. Alistair Reid, a research physician who has treated seasnake bites in Malaysia, victims suffer more from the effects of severe fright than from the bite itself.

Although divers have reported attacks, sea snakes' aggressiveness varies among species. Some snakes attack only when provoked. Others have launched unprovoked attacks, usually during breeding

season. Some approach divers just out of curiosity. The difference is in how quickly they advance, says one expert. When they approach in fast, jerky motions it's a good idea to swim for your life, he advises.

Sea snakes aren't necessarily deadher than land snakes, because they usually deliver only a minuscule amount of their powerful poison when they bite, McCosker says. They sneak up on their prey. subdue it with a slight dose of venom and consume it when it becomes groggy.

Many people who have been bitten survived because so little venom entered their bodies. I'm not disappointed that I missed the opportunity to put any of this information to a test.

Emboldened by the decidedly unaggressive response of the snake that had been hit in the head, I ventured nearer to some others and saw their tiny tongues protrude from their mouths. That's as close as I got. My goal, which must await another visit, is to get close enough to hear sea snakes gasp for air.

(National Geographic News Service)

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Aayee Milan Ki Raat: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522), Rasusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 484808), Madhuban (Regent Park).

Avmash Wadhwan and Shaheen are the lead pair in this film, directed by K. Pappu. Others costarring are Anupam Khor, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Aloknath, Aruna Irani, Rita Bhaduri and Paresh Rawal. The music is by Anand Milind.

• Afsana Pyar Ka: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 351382), Ragini (Beliaghata Main Road; 363264), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 478141).

Directed by Shahjahan and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Aamir Khan and Neelam.

 Ajooba: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 552932)— 4 shows.

A film by Shashi Kapoor, starring Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor, Dunple Kapadia, Sonani, Shammi Kapoor and Amrish Puri. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Benaam Badsha: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 365108), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417).

Anil Kapoor and Juhi Chawla are the lead pair. The film is directed by K Ravi Shankar and the music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Ramwati: New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147)—4 shows.

Directed by Yash Chauhan, the film's main cast comprises Upasna Singh, Anupam Kher, Kiran Kumar, Dalip Tahil and Kader Khan. The music is by Usha Khanna.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664)—4 shows.



Shaheen and Avinash Wadhwan in Aayee Milan Ki Raat

Salman Khan and debutante Chandni play the lead in this recent box-office hit. Others co-starring are new-find Kanchan, Puneet Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Danny and Pran. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor.

• Shikari: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132)—4 shows.

Mithun Chakraborty, Naseeruddin Shah, Varsha Usgaonkar, Natasha and Amrish Puri comprise the main cast. The film is directed by Umesh Mehra and the music is by Annu Malik.

Arjun Chakraborty and Satabdi Roy in Aamaar Saathi



• Yeh Aag Kab Bujhegi: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141)—4 shows.

A film on the evils of the dowry system, starring Sunil Dutt, Rekha. Kabir Bedi, Shakti Kapoor, Ranjeet, Bindu and debutante Sheeba. The film is directed by Sunil Dutt and the music is by Raymdra Jain.

Bengali Films

• Aamaar Saathi: Darpana (Bidhan Saranı; 558080), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567)—2.30, 5.30, 8.15; Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282)—2, 5, 7.45.
Directed by Salil Dutta, the chef

Directed by Salil Dutta, the chief attractions of this film are Arjun Chakraborty, Satabdi Roy, Manoj Mitra, Rabi Ghose, Abhijit Sen and Juin Banerjee. The music is by Mrinal Banerjee.

• Beder Meye Josna: Rupbani (Bidhan Saranı; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhı Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

One of the biggest hits in recent times, this Bangladesh production stars Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh.

7 DAYS

Others in the cast are Saituddin, Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Sonia, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarnath and Bulbul The film is directed by Matiyur Rehman Panu and the music is by Abu Taher.

• Katha Dilam: Radha (Bidhan Sarani, 553045)—2.30, 5.30, 8.15

Directed by Rajat Das and with music by Ajov Das, the cast of this film includes Prasenjit. Avesha Jul. ka, Shakuntala Barua, Soumitra Banerjee and Sukhen Das-

 Mahaprithivi: Minai - Bidhan Saram, 552753) Buoli (S.P. Mukheriec Road, 47 (462) Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 352740) - 3, 5 45, 8 15

A Mrinal Sen film, starring Vic tor Baneriec, Soamitra Chatterjee, Geeta Sen Amai Dutt, Anusua Majumdar and Aparter Sen

• Rin Sodh: Siec (Bidhan Saran), 51515), Purati (Mahatina Gandhi Road, 350680), Upala (Russa Road, 478666)=-3 shows

Directed by Bimai Kumar, the film stars Govinda, Julii Chawla Kader Khan, Shakti Kapeor and Rabi Ghose. The music is by Raicsh Roshan

Special Events

5 May: 10 am

Tagore Society, Jamshedpur presents Rabindranath Tagore's dance-drama Chitrangada.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road: 2899787

5 May onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm An exhibition of M.F. Husain's

tecent works, till May 15 At Chitrakoot Art Gallery (55 Ganahat Road; 755.314)

5 May: 3 pm 8 pm
Encounter will hold an exhibition

of paintings in the New South Gal-

 An exhibition of handicrafts by the Society for the Dear in the New Gallery

5 & 6 May: 3 pm - 8 pm

An exhibition of Sambhit R. Sengupta's paintings, organised by Gallery 80, in the West and North galleries.

At Academy of hime Arts (Cathedrai Road, 284302)



A scene from the play, Alakanander Putra-Kanya

5-9 May: 6.30 pm

In aid of Dr.R. Ahmed Memorial Centre, the Indian Deptal Association presents a testival of Bengah plays featuring Pancham Vaidics. Naathabati Anaathabat and Katha Amrita Samaan, Anya Theatre's Madhab Malanchi Kainva, Sundhi ands Alakanander Patra Kanya and Chetna's Jagannath

At Calcutta University Institute Hall (College Square)

7 May: 6.30 pm

Manipuri Nartanashrani presents an evening of Manipuri. nances featuring Basanta Raas, Gostho Leela and Tagore's Bhanu singher Padayah.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road 289978)

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dec (2) Ai-101 at 0230 Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5) Al-306 at 1915. Dep (5) Al-306 at 2020

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay, 4rr (6) Al-309 at 1910 Dep (6) Al-309 at 2025 London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (7)

Al-132 1328 at 1230 ' Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta. Arr

(4) SU-537 at 1525 Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow.

Dep (4) SU-538 at 1725
* Moscow-Tashkeni-Karachi-

Calcutta-Hanoi: Arr (2) SU-541 at 0640 Dep (2) SU-541 at 0750 Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr (2) SU-542 at 1615, Dep (2) SU-542 at 1815

Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4) R.1-184

Calcutta-Amman: Dep (5) RJ-185 at 0530

Bucharest-Calcufta-Bangkok Arr (1) RO-063 at 1115, Arr (6) RO-063 at 1045, Dep (1) RO-063 at 1230, Dep (6) RO-063 at 1200

Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest: Arr (1, 6) RO-064 at 2015 Dep (1, 6) RO-064 at 2130

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4) SQ-420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr (2) SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-420 at 1210

Calcutta-Bangkok Dep (2, 4, 7) IC-731 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4 7) IC-732 at 1500 Arr (1, 3 6) TG-313 at 1240

Calcutta-Kathmandu, Dep. (2-4. 6, 7) IC-747 at 1600 Dep (1 5) RA 214 at 1455

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr (2 4 6, 7) IC-74d at 1930 Arr (1, 5) RA-213 at 1355

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (1 3, 5 6) IC 723 at 1340, Dep (daily) BG 092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935 Dhaka-Calcutta. Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-724 at 1600, Arr (daily). BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855 Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5)

BG-698 at 1950 Chittagong-Calcutta. Arr. (2-5) BG-697 at 1910

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (2) KB-106 at 0900, Arr (2) KB-105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2) Al-

101 at 0230 Delhi-Calcutta, Arr (1) Al-1328 at 1230

Indian Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi. Dep (daily) IC-263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750. Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay. Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0900 and IC-273 at 2000 Arr (daily) IC-2"4 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0800

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (1, 2 3 4, 5, 7) IC-765 at 1700 Dep (6) IC-265 at 1700 Arr (1, 2, 3 4, 5, 7) IC-766 at 2210, Arr (6) IC-266 at 2205

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6, 7) IC-771 at 0620 Arr (1, 2, 4, 6, 7) IC 772 at 1200

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi, Dep (daily) IC-410 at 0615

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta. Arr (daily) IC-409 at

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-729 at 0730 Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1630, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-741 at 0835 and IC-743 at 1330: Arr (daily) IC-742 at 1055 and IC-744 at 1550

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2 4, 6) IC-285 at 0530 Arr (2 4, 6) IC-286 at 1000

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0530, Arr (1) IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4) IC-213 at 1130, Dep (3 5 7) IC-213 at 0600, Arr (2, 4) IC-213 at 1525 Arr. (3, 5, 7) IC-213 at 0955

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (1) IC-221 at 1300, Dep (2 3 4, 5, 6 7) IC-221 at 1100 Arr (1) IC-222 at 1520, Arr (2, 3, 4 5 6, 7) IC-222 at 1320

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (2-3, 4) 5, 6, 7) IC-201 at 1400, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-202 at 1730

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily) IC-255 at 0610, Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1050

Calcutta-Imphai-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, € 7) IC-257 at 1130, Arr (1 3 5, 7) IC-257 at

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-269 at 1650; Arr (3, 5, 5) IC-270 at

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar Dep (1, 2, 4 7) IC-269 at 1650, Arr (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2 4 7) IC-277 at 1720, Arr (1 2, 4, 7) IC-278 at 2210

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep (1 2, 4, 6) IC-542 at 1000

Madras-Vishakapatnam-Calcutta: Arr (1, 2, 4 6) IC-541 at

Calcutta-Agartala-Kailashahar: Dep (2, 4). PF-729 at 0710. Arr (2, 4) PF-730 at 1120

Calcutta-Shillong-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1 3.5 6) PF-701 at 0710 Dep (7) PF-701 at 1210;

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Shanah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi Tashkent Calcutta - No traffic rights or Calcutta Bangkok-Calcutta

, 3, 5, 6) PF-702 at 1120 PF-702 at 1620 Sutta-Agartala-Silchar Dep 1 PF-729A at 0710 Arr (7) PF 30A at 1140

Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (1 2 3 4 5, 6) PF-717 at 0630 Dep (2 4, 6) PF-717A at 1330 Arr (1 2 3 4, 5, 6) PF-718 at 0825 Arr (2 4, 6) PF-718A at 1525

Calcutta-Agartaia-Aizawi Dep (2, 4 6 7) PF-705 at 0855 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF-706 at 1300 Calcutta-Agartaia-Aizawi-Calcutta: Dep (1 3 5) PF-705A

at 1250 Arr (1 3 5) PF 706A at 1635 Calcutte-Cooch Behar Dep (3 5) PF-707 at 0855 Arr (1 3 5 PF-708 at 1150

			Trains						
Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival		Departure		SOUTH-EASTERN	Arrival	
Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn			RAILWAY		
2311 3005	19-00 19-20	Delhi-Kalka Meli Amritsar Mali	8-30 8-05	2312 3006	Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn
3003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Madras Mail	7-00	6004
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8-00	8001
ĺ		press via Gaya-Varanasi			2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	2859
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat Arr-Wed Fn & Sun			8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	8033
2303	9-15	Air-Cond (New Deihi) Ex-	18-00	2304	8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
2303	5- 15	press via Patna DepMon Wed Fri & Sun	10-00	2304	2841	14-30 22-35	Coromandel (Madras) Ex- press Bangalore Express	11-50 13-45	2842 2612
		Arr-Mon Tues Thurs & Sat			20	ZZ-33	Dep-Tues	13-43	2012
2301	16-00	Reidheni Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	Į		Arr—Sun		
		week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	8014
		Dep-Mon Tues Thurs Fri &			8011	6-10	Ispet Express	21-45	8012
		Sun			8005	21-00	Sembelpur Express	7 30	8006
		Arr-Tues Wed Thurs Sat &			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	8016
		Sun			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8008
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via	7-45	8410
	40.00	press Tri-Wkly Dep-Tues Fri & Sat			2821	5-55	Naraj Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	2822
		Arr-Tues Wed & Sat				0.00	Dress	21.20	LULL
2547	13-15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	8079	23 20	Tirupati Express	4-15	8080
		press Dep Mon & Thurs			8045	11 10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex- press	14-55	8046
		Arr—Thurs & Mon			8017	16-45	Purulie Express	11 20	8018
3009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-20	3010			Dep—Except Saturday Arr—Except Sunday		
3007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	_
3049	13-05	Amritear Express	15-45	3050	ł		Monday only		
3011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	-	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	2601
3039 3019	20-55	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-30	3040			- Guwahati Express Saturday only		
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	_	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
2557	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	i		Guwahati Weekly Express		
2357 5659	6-00 1 7-35	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	2558			(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
3317	6-10	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express Black Diamond Express	6-30	5660			Thursday only		
3029	17-15	Coalfield Express	21-25 10-30	3318 3030	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour Terminus Weekly Express	22-15	
3035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036	1				
3031	21-00	Denapur Express	6-35	3032	1		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3025	23-00	North Bihar Express	11-10	3026	0650	20.25	Saturday only	40 45	0051
<i>-</i>	25-00	DepWednesday ArrFriday	11-10	3020	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madrac)	13-45	2651
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6-00	3072	1		Dep—Fri & Sun		
		Dep-Tues Thurs & Sat		~~.	1		Arr—Tues & Fri		
		Arr-Mon Thurs & Sat			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	
3015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	-57.7		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
2159	15-25	Chambal (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160			& Cuttack)		
		weekly Superfast Express			1		Wednesday only		
		Dep-Thurs Sat & Sun				14-10	Bangaiore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
		Arr-Tues Wed & Thurs			_	10	Weekly Express (via Howrah	40	
1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express Dep-Tues & Wed	7-30	1172			& Cuttack) Monday only		
		Arr-Sat & Sun			2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	
3327	15-25	Shaktipunj (Chopen) Ex- press	7-30	3328			minus Weekly Express (via Howrah)		
		Dep & Arr—Mon & Fri			1		Thursday only		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminue- Patna Weekly Express (via	13-45	2609
64.45	4	Sealdah	<u>.</u>				Howrah) Wednesday only		
3143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	1				
3153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154	ENO	(D)EQ. E-	r round the clock information of	Eastern !	Dallu
3151	11-20	Jemmu-Tewi Express	16-30	3152			r round the clock information of let 203545-54 for in-coming train		
3133 3103	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	all oti	ner Inform	nation. For information about uth Eastern Railways trains, dia	reservation	one on
	18-20	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104			weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm		
5185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly Dep & Arr-Wed Fn & Sun	4-30	5186		ed holide			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

JUNIOR WHIRL D Hal Kaufman



BOOK BAG! Some 30 characters in the book M'lady's reading appear in the diagram above. See if you can find them all.

• EZ MARK? Write this term and challenge a triend to pronounce it correctly OGUREZ. If he or she has difficulty, ask the person to spell if aloud.

1MASON
2PLUMBER
3CARPENTER
4RIGGIR
5 FLICTRICIAN
6 ROOFER
7 TINSMITH

IT'S A PANEL DISCUSSION

"Aha," said the defense attornoy, "all seven of these jurors are in the building trade. Now, suppose I take these trades and arrange them in an orderly column (see above). Then I find that one of the vertical rows of letters spells out the occupation of our next juror, and it is in an unrelated field."

'Aw fiddlesticks, replied his opponent "I'll get his line of work from the Commissioner of Jurors."

Can you find the eighth juror's profession vertically above?

LICHDOS P 5 BM

• STICKY SWEET! This seems like an easy problem, but it can prove a bit sticky Let's say there are 30 one-ounce candy bars in each pan of a simple balance scale. Question: How many bars must be transferred from one pan to the other in order to have one pan contain three times the other pan's weight?

िश्रमकीर एटचे मिलका एताच सवाच दावन क्षेत्र कि



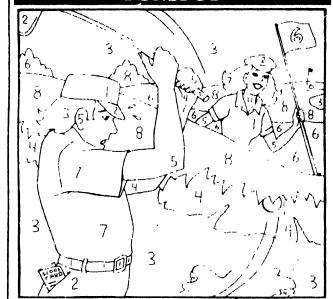
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Towel is smaller 6 Doutk is missing 3 Arm is moved 4 Salboak is missing 5 Sign is smaller 6 Doutk is missing

FUNSPOT



BANK SHOT! Better luck with your next shot, Mr Golfer. Add following colors neatly: 1—Red 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt brown. 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk brown. 8—Dk. green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

DISPENSE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points. poor 'dius' europowi elgiesod



QUIZ - Neil O'Brien

Sajit Mukherjee reports on the All India North Star Quiz.

"Rain rain go away, all the quizzards want to play." Nursery rhymes, prayers—nothing works.

One associates the All India North Star Quiz with glitzy presentations, top class quiz teams, quizmaster Derek O'Brien and...the rain. Wimbledon, Old Trafford Tests, Cherrapunji and the North Star Quiz are what the rain gods love.

On that rainy Sunday in March, eight teams vied for the crown jewel in Indian quizzing. There were three teams from Calcutta—Calcutta Medical College, Jadavpur University and Dalhousie Institute 'B'. Joining them were Quiz Foundation (Madras), St Joseph's College (Bangalore), Azad Hind Mandal (Bombay) and Delhi teams, JNU and Intach

The Calcutta preliminaries and finals, held on three earlier days at the Dalhousie Institute, produced many an



11th Question: In the United States, who are called 'November Boys'? (Gaurab Bhattacharjee, Qr no. B-126, IIT Kharagpur, Pin: 721302)

Ans: The male child who because of his November birthday and the chronological for entrance to various grade levels.

al cut-off point for entrance to various grade levels, is one of the youngest members of the class.

upset. Ballygunge Cultural Seminar, all-India winners in 1988, only got as far as the Calcutta final and nine-time North Star champions, DI 'A', did not even make it past the prelims!

The all-India final was, once again, an exciting, entertaining affair. For the first time an eight-piece band (Pop Secret) played the music round live! Here was another Derek O'Brien innovation which is bound to become a regular and popular feature at quizzes. It was a pity the second 'live' music round was 'washed out' because of the rains. The video and live rounds, too, were not as slickly presented by

North Star standards. Would Bata, the sponsors, consider avoiding the norwester months? Or putting up a shamiana? Quizzing fans like me look forward to this event and would hate rains to be the spoil sport every year.

Intach Delhi picked up six crucial points in the closing stages to become the new All India North Star (1991) winners. However, there was a big fight for the second place between Madras and JU Calcutta. The jampacked hall lustily cheered the local team throughout, but it was the more experienced Madras team who eventually finished runners-

The 'Superstar Round' was conducted by guest quizmaster Neil O'Brien who also proposed a special vote of thanks to Dilip Chatterjee of Bata who's retiring this year.

Here is the (tentative) quizzing calendar for the year. All quizzards please 'cut and keep':

Mid-May—DI Open Quiz, Late-June—Summer Invitation Quiz.

July—Argus Loser's Plate and Percy Baptiste School Quiz.

July-August---Maggi Inter School

October-November—All India North Star,

Late November—Argus Close Up Open,

Postscript: The Dalhousie Institute Open Quiz for the Errol Cowper Trophy will be held at the DI on May 8, 9 and 11. Quizmaster: Neil O'Brien. Draw on club notice board.

QUESTIONS

1) Who wrote the song for Italia '90? (Biplab Biswas, Calcutta 65)

2) In the film industry what is a "married print"? (Shailesh Kumar Singh, Godda)

3) Who established the

Dalit Minority Muslim Suraksha Mahasangh? (Subrata Haldar, Hooghly) 4) THX-1138 was the first science fiction film of one of Hollywood's most successful directors. Name him. (Ismatara Khatoon, Bardhaman)

5) Le Corbusier and Chandigarh, Pierre L'Enfant and Washington DC, Lutyens and New Delhi, Walter Graffin and..? (Sanjay Dayal, Ranchi 2)

6) Who is known as Máradona of the Nile? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutta 16)

7) What is an Atomic Cock-

tail? (Othello Mazoom-daar, Boral)

8) The 1956 Olympics were held in Melbourne barring one event which was held in another city. Name the event and the

Jaipur, the Pink City

city. (Sujit Mukherjee, Bhubaneswar 2) 9) In business slang, what is Speed Money? (Manoj Kumar Singh, Patratu)

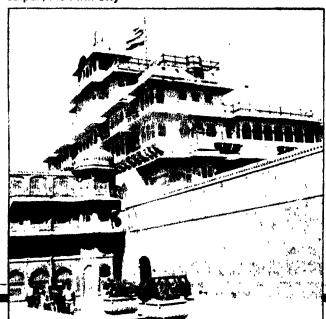
10) How did Jaipur become the Pink City? (Vikas

Singh, Rourkela 3)

ANSWERS

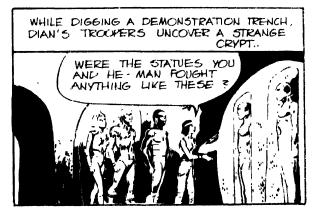
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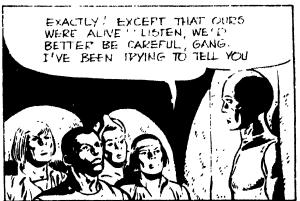
ish royal visit all walls were -tha a guinub , 2781 ni (01 old bribe. a) New word for the good into the country. against allowing horses of Australia's strict law held in Stockholm because 8) Equestrian events were patients with cancer. nistered orally in water to -imbs (ebiboi muibos es) 7) A radioactive substance 6) Egypt's Taher Abu-Zeid. 4) George Lucas. 5) Canberra. 3) Haji Mastan. a married print. buut' mujcu uom pecomes sound track is made on the the final print is prepared, different sources. When rure and sound come from preview takes place, pic-2) When a motion picture 1) Giorgio Moroder.



COMICS

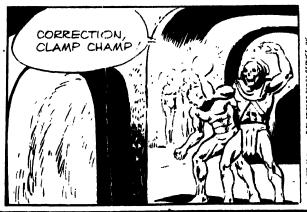














ARCHIE













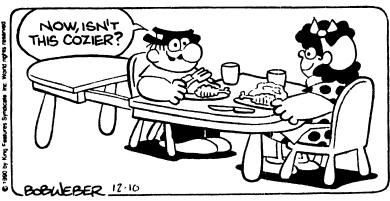






MOOSE MILLER By Bob Weber

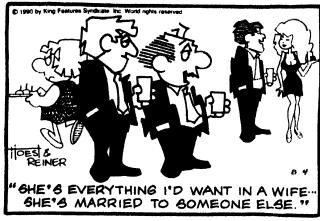






THE LOCKHORNS

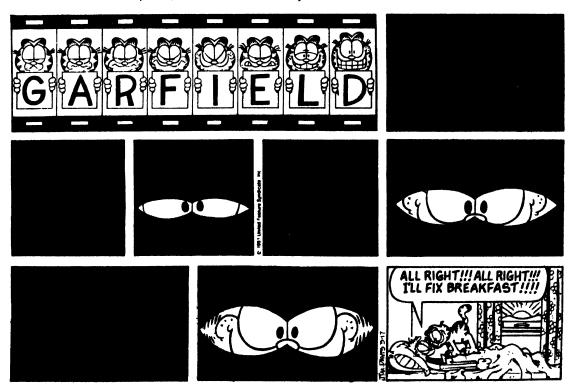








GARFIELD By Jim Davis



THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP































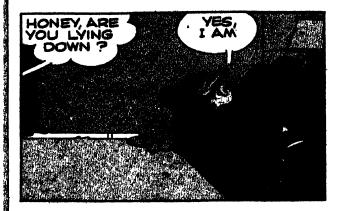










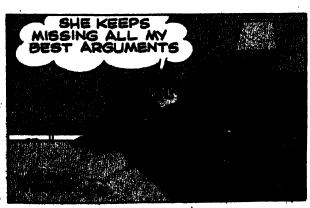




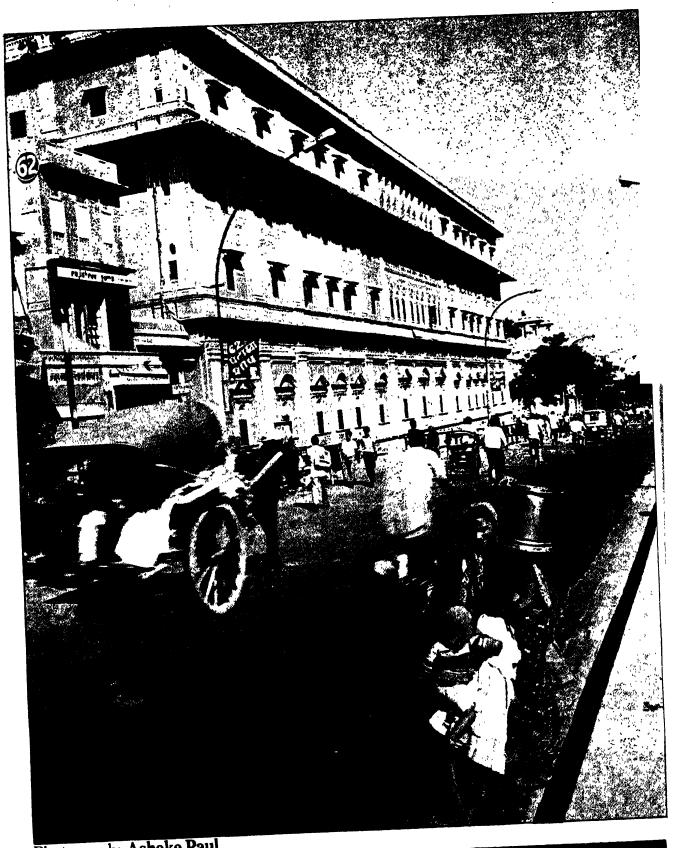








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POST MORTEM

Om's Work

The performances of this ordinary-faced man, Om Puri ('Omnipotent', April 7) show his remarkable talent Roles big or small, films artistic or commercial. Om has retained his

One remembers vividly his characterisations in Aaktosh, Andher Nagri, Chokh, Mandi, Paar, Susman and Ghayal Ramesh Pal Tewari,

Calcutta

■ Doesn t the interviewer know the right spelling of Saeed Mırza, the filmmaker with whom Om Puri "shared ideas at the film institute? He's not Syed but Saeed names that are as different from each other as Nandita and Nan dini[†]

Also, the correct name of the institute is FTII and not FTI, standing for Film and Television Institute of India

Finally, since when did Susman become a Govind Nihalani film? I always thought it was a Shyam Benegal film

Javed Qureshi, Calcutta

■ The views of the ex tremely versatile Om Puri

were a delight to read Certainly, he is a very rare actor from Bollywood I hope he will also excel in the much hyped City of Joy as Hasari Pal and maybe get an Oscar for India Pradeep Jain,

Whirlwind Mamata

Calcutta^{*}

Mamata Banerjee (The Challenge', March 24) 15 the whirlwind of Bengal politics Her indomitable spirit frankness and down to earth attitude have made her extremely popu lar among the masses. Her rise has been truly meteoric

In a state where the Left Front has made corruption and nepotism rainpant in almost every sphere of life this rising woman should be playing a great role in the near future

Manohar Mandal, Nabadwip

■ You seemed very partial in expressing Mamata's qualities only and praising her thus I herefore it sounded more like an elec tion campaign on her be

Anurag Bagaria, Calcutta

Om Puri in City of Joy: One for the Oscar!



The New and the ()ld

After the excellent cover story Voice of a New Generation (March 3) it is time you published Voice of the Old Generation We would love to read about the heavenly voices of Kishore Kumar Hemant Kumar Mohd Rafi and Mukesh

Anshuman Chowdhary, Dhanbad

■ Most of the new voices are destined simply to make a success out of copying the veterans and no more This way they can only have a transient impact in this era of instant music

Sunil Baner jee, Calcutta

■ It was astorishing that you overlooked Alisha Chi nai among the new singers In fact, she is the Asha Bhosle of the new age

Ashoke Sengupta, Rahara

■ I am also an admirer of old songs and singers, but your article was a little biased There is no comparison between Kishore Kumar and Kumar Shanu, but the older singers also had their own limitations Mukesh could only sing sad songs, Manna Dey only classical songs and Talat Mehmood only ghazals, and so on

Your magazine also seems to favour Bengalis For example, even in this issue you had Sapna Mukh erjee on the cover and talked at length about the greatness of Kishore Kumar, Hemant Kumar and Manna Dey Please consider the sentiments of

non-Bengalis, too Vibhas Kumar,

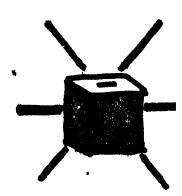
Calcutta

Dhanbad

You left out other clones like Abhijeet Dasgupta, Vinod Rathod Kirti Kumar, Debashis Dasgup ta, Manhar Udhas and Prasun Mukherjee Sandip Roy Choudhury,

CONTENTS

The Telegraph 12 MAY 1991



In the coming election who will fare how now the astrologers lave their av

The world famous artisces of Kumartuli recently held an exhibition of their work to celebrate Calcutta's terce ntenary

Akk neni Nageswar Rao who completes a 50 year career in Telugu cinema was finally honoured with the Dadasahe b Phalke award this year A look at his phenomenal screen graph

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Cover Bulbui Sharma

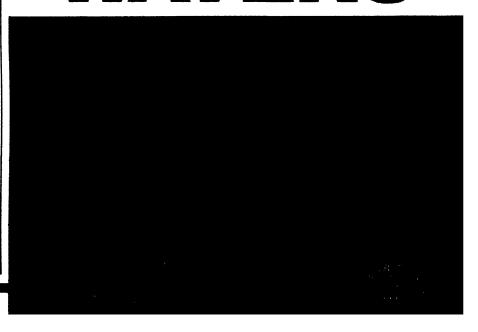


attacked with bombs booms and oil eating bacteria. This is a first in our lifetime—a spill in a category by itself in a war environment, says a US expert assessing the aftermath of the largest oil spill ever recorded.

In January Iraq deliberately released 300 million to 400 million gallons of oil from the Sea Island terminal, about 10 miles off the Kuwaiti coast. The volume is triple that of the previous world-record spill the 1979 "Ixtoc I" well blowout in Mexico. It

Will the Persian Gulf
survive the world's worst
oil spill? Joy Aschenbach
probes the likely
long-term descruction the
Gulf War will cause

WATERS



is more than 30 times the 11 million gallons dumped into Alaska's Prince William cound in 1989

Since Iraq torched hundreds of Kuwaiti oil facilities in late February, thick smoke, clouds and the ground was have obscured

the gulf oil slick. No one is sure exactly how much oil. in the water,' says Ibrahim Al-Muhanna of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Petroleum in

also degrades emulsifies and oxidises What is left is less harmful asphaltic components that form far balls, which may float sink to the bottom or wash ashore

Jacqueline Michel a science adviser to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), who stolled the 1978 Amoci Cidiz disaster, which dumped 68 million gallons of oil on the coast of France said that within three

the illegal discharge of duty ballast water, bilges and slop oil Wildlife has survived because the gulf region is largely undeveloped

'The sheer magnitude of this spill is so huge that what happens after the major physical impact, the long term effects, are difficult to predict," says Usha Varanası of NOAA, and expert on oil's effects on sea creat ires

he Persian Gulf region, particularly 📘 around Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, is home to more than 3,650 animal species some 50 of which are threatened with extinction at the global level

At immediate risk in the gulf are the 500 miles south of the spill site to the peninsular nation of Qatar, including the Gulf of Bahrain Kuwaiti offshore coral islands, among them the recently recaptured Qarch Island, have the most northerly coral reefs in the world Kuwaiti and Saudi island beaches are major nesting areas for green and hawksbill turties

The seagrass meadows, or pastures, off the island nation of Bahrain support some 2 000 to 3 500 dugongs, or sea cows, a globally threatened species

The gult is second to Australia in importance for the survival of dugongs, the creatures that inspired mariners of old to

magine mermaids The seagrass pastures provide food or shelter for more than 500 species of plants and animals. Commercial fish, shrimp and pearl oysters feed there. Oil pollution kills scagrass beds if it smothers the leaves and teams. An estimated one million to two million birds winter in the gulf or stop there during migration particularly from Europe, the Soviet Union and Asia. The gulf is the main breeding area for the threatened Socotra cormorant

For some oil spills a still-experimental proces called bioremediation, in which bacteria eat oil may be the best cleanup crew of all. One of the oil eating techniques may be applied to gulf beaches. In Prince William Sound heavily contaminated beaches were sprayed with a special fertiliser to stimulate bacterial growth. In only two to three weeks the process began making a dramatic difference in the appearance of the rocks

The type of chemicals used had been tested for toxicity to marine organisms and certified to be safe when applied properly, says Hap Pritchard chief of the Environ mental Protection Agency's microbial ecol ogy and biotechnology branch at Gulf Breeze, Fla

The ultimate fate of the Persian Gulf, Western experts agree, also will depend on whether Saddam Hussein continues to hold the environment hostage by pursuing a policy of environmental terrorism

(National Geographic News Service)

An old Persian Gulf fisherman sets his net on a beach south of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Commercial fishing in parts of the gulf is threatened by Iraq's release of 300 million to 400 million gallons of oil into Kuwaiti waters in January. The gulf already may be world's most oil-polluted marine area

Rivadh Some has evaporated some has sunk some might have gone to the Iranian shore. The size of the suck changes all the

But he estimates that more than 10 nullion barrels (420 million gallons) have gone into the sea

Whether the Persian Gulf will fully recover the experts say depends on the magnitude (' the spill in relation to the peculiar n turc of this body of water one of Farth most fragic ecosystems, which is constantly invited by supertankers and warships

Its turquoise witers are shallow reletively still and nearly landlocked taking about five years to fly hour policiants Wildlife flock to the braches and wetlands along its largely undeveloped shores

It is likely to become the worst ever man induced oil related marine disaster according to a report from the World Conservation Monitoring Center in London But unlike the destruction of rain forests the centre's experts say the spill seffects nugl t be reversed

The dire predictions of devastating dam age from past spills have often turned out to be overly pessimistic. The fact that this one stayed at sea for it least 10 days may make its impact less disastrous, some scientists believe. Waves and wind may have evaporated much of its toxicity. Lyapor i tion the rate depends on oil volatility wave action and an and water tempera tures—usually takes care of a large per centage of the toxic properties. Oil at sea 1 tected leaks in underwater pipelines and

years most of the major impact there had

disappeared

The story is much the same in all crude-oil spilis she explained after the Exxon Valdez accident in Prince William Sound On exposed tooky beaches with much wave action little oil is left after a year. On quieter beaches the oil persists from two to three and is frequently mixed with sand and buried. Salt marshes suffer the most damage, and efforts to clean them are too destructive to do my good In general, fish, and bird population, tend to be replaced. The possible long term effects on the fidal and intertidal ecosy stems will take years to learn

he Person Gulf recovered relatively Lunschied from it previously worst spill More than G million gallons of all very released also its northern waters in 148's wher Iraq launched a rocket attack on Iran's Nowauz offshore oil platform during their eight year war

Because of the war the environmental damage was not adequately a sessed. Experts 5% the conditions for long term catastrophic effects apparently were not

present

Unlike pristing Prince William Sound the gulf is already possibly the most oil polluted manne are in the world accord ing to the World Con ervation Monitoring Center

The gult is frequently political by ittacks on tankers and oil ficilitie unde-

A dead coral reef in the Persian Gulf, victim of previous pollution off the island nation of Bahrain, is only one example of the destruction that may result from the world's worst oil spill

'For the next two-anda-half years there will be both political and economic stagnation'



SHIV SHANKAR BHARTI / Calcutta

et me make it clear at the very outset that predicting political outcomes does not fall under the purview of astrology. Over the years, astrology pundits have hankered after publicity and predicted results of general elections. I have done it myself a couple of times, inevitably incorrectly!

Astrology is restricted to predicting the fate of an individual and political forecasts are, most often, based on the political situation. Jyoti Basu, for instance, is a Makara, and if he were to contest these elections as an Independent candidate, he would have faced unqualified defeat. However, the political situation predominates and will steer him to victory.

Victory is certain for Rajiv Gandhi—he is a Simha Raashi and is going through a bright phase in his career—which does not necessarily mean victory for the Congress(I) at the Centre. No astrologer can predict which political party will come to power at the Centre, for the simple reason that astrology rules out predictions of collective fate, much in the same way that an astrologer cannot predict the outcome of a joint case that has been filed in court.

Personal victory is also assured for Chandra Shekhar and V.P. Singh who is a Dhanu Raashi. Rajesh Khanna will, however, fail to bring any luck to the Congress(I) and L.K. Advani will surely win from his constituency.

This city falls under the Dhanu sign, and

INTHE STARS



Some of our leading prediction pundits gaze into the near future



I do not foresee any major economic or political breakthrough for it in the next two years. India is a land of eternal pessimism under the Makara sign. For the next two-and-a-half years the country will be severely under the influence of Shani and there will be both political and economic stagnation, irrespective of which party comes to power. After this period, there will be a lot of relief for the country in every way.

'A sensational political assassination is likely before the elections'



PRAYAG BANDOPADHYAY Calcutta

he bad times are almost over for the country. For the new government, it is going to be tough going till July this year and there is no reason why everything should not be hunky-dory for the country after August. Everything, in all ways, will look up for the country after that.

The government will work for the uplift of the downtrodden and all secessionist, conservative forces will be wiped out from the country while cohesive, secular and socialistic forces will rule the roost.

Contrary to popular belief, the new government will be stable and competent—it will last its full term of five years and will help India regain its lost prestige in the world. Saturn, after all, is a great leveller, and the country will be heavily under its influence for the next two years.

I rule out a hung Parliament. The Congress(I) will most definitely form the government, with its allies maybe, while Rajiv Gandhi will head the country as the Prime

Minister. On the other hand, the political careers of V.P. Singh and Devi Lal are nearly over. For the next seven years, Chandra Shekhar will be a force to reckon. In spite of the Congress(I) coming to power at the Centre, Chandra Shekhar will not go into oblivion. I do not, in fact, rule out a Congress(I)-Samajwadi Janata Party alliance where he would be the party president

I do not foresee any wave building up in favour of a particular political party this time. The Congress(I) will get 243 seats, the BJP 147 at the most and the Left Front-Janata Dal combine definitely not more than 95. The elections are going to be marred by largescale violence, particularly in central India. A sensational political assassination is likely before the elections—an attempt at it, a certainty.

No united Opposition will work in Punjab and elections in the state will not be held on June 22. It will be held some time this year though, and despite the militants coming to power, I do not foresee the formation of Khalistan in the near future. Unlike Punjab, the Assam elections will be held as per schedule.

L.K. Advani's Karkata Lagna and Mesh Raashi make him extra lucky during election time—he wil! win from his constituencies with huge margins and is most likely to be the leader of the Opposition. Later in his career he will be prey to a major political conspiracy, leading to his downfall. His traditional, conservative and fanatic nature is evident from his horoscope chart.

In more ways than one, this government will be remarkably different from previous Parliaments by way of its legislations and policies. In fact, I foresee radical changes in the Constitution of the country in the next couple of years.

The number ¹10', being the first double-digit number, has an irrefutable astrological link with Capricorn, which is the sign of our country. The ensuing elections being the 10th in the country will, therefore, be a boon for India.

The Union Cabinet, whose average age will be approximately 48 years, will form a pro-mass government and will bring about a structural change in the prevailing social setup of the country. The Hindu fanaticism that the BJP has built up so successfully will not pay off in the long run, and secularism will prevail.

The new government will usher in a completely new era for the country where the mastan raaj will no longer be prevalent, and where India will again build up her foreign exchange reserves and give birth to a major discovery in electronics.

And for the faces behind it all? Maybe, M.J. Akbar will be the minister for external affairs and maybe Shabana Azmi will get a Raiya Sabha nomination...

'V.P. Smgh and

Rajiv Gandhi could

come together



BEJAN DARUWALLA / Pune

suspect that the elections may be postponed because of violence in the country or health problems—either indisposition, accident or operation—to L.K. Advani or Jyoti Basu. But nothing is certain. Three giants who are no. 8—Jyoti Basu (his birthday falls on the eighth day of the month), Chandra Shekhar (17th) and Advani (eighth)—will not enjoy good health for the next two-and-a-half years.

It will be a toss-up between Rajiv Gandhi and V.P. Singh. Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, this adds up to 20 and so does 1991 This is a small point in his favour. In the last elections, the chances were 49—Rajiv, and 51—VP; this time there seems to be a reversal and Rajiv could have the edge over VP.

Real stability will come only between August 11, 1991 and November 11, 1991; not before.

Chimanbhai Patel of Gujarat is a Gemini. He will do very well in the elections. His writ will run now.

There is a slight possibility that VP and Rajiv could come together. This may sound stupid. But there could be a reconciliation. And this could take place between August 11, 1991 and November 11, 1001

The worst phase for India is now over. It got wer in February 1991. This monster of communalism and the Rathyatra will not play an important role. It will not be the clincher, the decider of issues. During the period February 14, 1988 to February 6, 1991, India had three Prime Ministers, upheavals and communal strife. In the second part from February 7, 1991 to

January 12, 1996, the changes and upheavals will continue. In the third part from January 13, 1996 to January 30, 1998, these problems will simmer down. After that comes India's period of milk, honey and super-power. The moment of glory.

Tyoti Basu may split with V.P. Singh after

he elections'



ACHARYA RAJ / Bombay

The Congress(I) will form the government after the elections and Rajiv Gandhi will be the P. me Minister. He will rule for a year-and-a-half to two. Then there will be either party elections or a realignment of political forces. By that time he will peter out. Someone else from the party or Chandra Shekhar will take over till 1996. After the 1996 general elections the Congress will not be known as it is. The name of the Congress will last only 108 years and that time would have come. I do not say the Congress(I) will be disbanded or that it will cease to exist. It may exist under another name.

Chandra Shekhar's Samajwadi Janata Party will win 10 to 15 seats in this election, and not more than 20 seats. But in the long run his prospects are d. After one-and-a-half to two years, he all get his chance again. Sometime in 1955, there will be Congress party elections or some kind of realignment of forces. In this he might even join the Congress(I). His future prospects are very good till 1996. He could even become the Prime Minister, but not after 1996.

V.P. Singh cannot do anything now. He cannot even retain regional power. The election results will see the Janata Dal and

V.P. Singh touch their political nadir. He cannot be an Ambedkar, Jagiivan Ram or Ram Vilas Paswan. He can become a good guide. In his peak period he gave Indian politics a new turn, but now his time is over.

[He had earlier predicted in December that]...after the mid-term elections V.P. Singh could be wiped out. He will be deserted by his political associates. He has no chance of becoming the PM. He will have no health problems or danger to his life and will continue to get the support of his family.

The BJP will become the major opposition party after the elections and remain so till the next general elections in 1996. After 1996, the BJP has a good chance of forming the government. But neither L.K. Advani nor Atal Behari Vajpayee will become the PM. I am not saying that the BJP will definitely form the government, but there are chances. After 1996 one thing is certain: there will be a major political change. As far as Advani is concerned, the temple will be built at Ayodhya, but I cannot say if the mosque will be broken to do this. Advani will have no problems with his party, but his health will trouble him between 1993 and 1996.

Jyoti Basu will continue to run the state government, and his government will remain strong. At the Centre he may even split with V.P. Singh after the elections. Nothing will happen to shake him during his present term in West Bengal.



The next five years will place Indian

democracy under

screre strain'



R. NARAYANAN / Madras

It will be a neck-and-neck race between the Congress(I) and the BJP. Rajiv Gandhi will scrape through and form a coalition government, but will have to watch out after one-and-a-half years. The BJP will keep posing a severe challenge to him.

Though it has not been mentioned in L.K. Advani's horoscope that he will become the Prime Minister, he will definitely become a kingmaker who will make other BJP stalwarts PMs in the future. He himself is not after the chair.

The Rama temple will definitely be built on the spot chosen by the VHP and as a result there will be communal tension between Hindus and Muslims for at least one more year. Khalistan will be a major problem for the next two years.

According to Advani's horoscope (Venus positive), he will be a constant thorn in the side of Rajiv Gandhi. V.P. Singh's future is hazy while Chandra Shekhar will play a crucial role in the future.

In Andhra Pradesh, N.T. Rama Rao's party will get more seats than the Congress(I) and Karnataka will become a stronghold of the RIP after this election

stronghold of the BJP after this election.

In Tamil Nadu, Jayalalitha will sweep the polls, but will be plagued by illness and will hardly concentrate on the administration.

She will face a challenge from senior leaders of her party in another year or so. After that whether she will survive in politics remains to be seen.

M. Karunanidhi will never again become chief minister and the DMK after this election will disintegrate. Karunanidhi will have to be careful about his health.

The next five years will place Indian democracy under severe strain.



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J.C. LUTHRA / New Delhi

Tolence will escalate before the elections. It will begin in the middle of May and stretch up to the first week of July. There is also a possibility of attacks on some political leaders.

During this period Mars will be entering Cancer, and Saturn has already entered Capricorn. They will be opposing each other. Whenever there is a connection between these two planets, a lot of violence takes place. Moreover, Capricorn stands for India and the Indian people. When these two planets are connected with Capricorn, the people of India are adversely affected.

It is most likely that violence will take its worst shape in the regions of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. This violence will be at the instigation of Pakistan and that country may also play an active part after May 19 this year.

The Congress(I) will be the single largest party in Parliament and it might get the required number of seats to form the government. Either it can do this on its own or it might take the help of some other parties. But there is a great possibility of its forming the government at the Centre after the coming elections. The BJP will be coming next with about 100 seats or a little more. I don't see any chances for either V.P. Singh or N.T. Rama Rao or Chandra Shekhar of becoming the PM after the elections.

Rajiv Gandhi's horoscope is very strong. From October 1989 the Bhukti period or the sub-periods had started and these were weak periods for him. But his main period was of Rahu and this was very strong. There has been a lot of improvement in his horoscope particularly after May 1. After five or six months he has another weak period and attempts might be made to dislodge him from power. But after this, for the next four years, everything will run smoothly for him as his main period is very strong.

However, at the end of this period there will be another weak Bhukti period when he might be dislodged from power. But he might be able to survive with the help of others.

I don't have the complete horoscope of l. K. Advani. But by the transits of the planets at the time of the elections it can be seen that this period will also be very helpful for him. The other BJP leader, Atal Behari Vajpayee's horoscope, on the other hand, is not very strong. The Dasa and the Bhukti periods are weak and there is not even one per cent chance of his becoming the PM.

As far as V.P. Singh and N.T. Rama Rao are concerned, not only do they have weak horoscopes, but the transit of the planets at the time of the elections get weaker for them. V.P. Singh's main Dasa period is very strong, but he has two very weak Bhukti periods of Moon. Though his Dasa period is strong, the two weak Bhukti periods make his horoscope very weak and he cannot be the PM again.

Similarly, N.T. Rama Rao's Dasa period is very strong, but he has weak subperiods and therefore they will not help him in becoming the PM. glo

Chandra Shekhar's entire horoscope is very weak. His Dasa and the Bhukti periods are weak and there is absolutely no chance for him to become the PM once again. Since Rajiv Gandhi's horoscope is improving, Chandra Shekhar could become the PM only with his help. Moreover, at that time, the transit of the planets was also helpful in making Chandra Shekhar the PM. But now even the transit of the planets in his horoscope are negative.

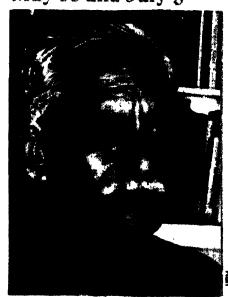
I don't foresee either a change in the leadership within the Congress(I) or any other leader like Jyoti Basu becoming the PM. I have not seen Jyoti Basu's horoscope, but if it was so strong then the party that he was supporting should have stayed on. At least some sort of strength should have been there for his partners. Moreover, I think it is very difficult to project him as a national leader as so far he has remained a regional leader.

The opposition parties can win under condition that they all join to defeat the Congress(I) as they did in the last election. This means the opposition parties, including the BJP, have to come together. Without the BJP they cannot win and the BJP

on its own will not be in a position to form the government.

Therefore, I think the Congress(I) will be the only party to be in a position to form the government either on its own or with the help of some other parties.

'Chandra Shekhar faces a great physical risk between May 15 and July 5'



LACHHMAN DAS MADAN / New Delhi

don't see a clear-cut victory for any single party. No party will be in a position to form the government on its own. The Congress(I) with the other parties, barring the BJP. will form the government at the Centre. In order to give a stable shape to the government the Congress(I) will try to rope in as many parties as possible. But people will have a stiff opposition to Rajiv Gandhi. The ultimate choice, therefore, will be on Jyoti Basu.

The possibility of Rajiv Gandhi becoming the Prime Minister is very remote and even if he does become the PM it will be for a short period. This is mainly because most people will be opposed to him. The astrological reasons for this are on his birthday, August 20, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury are badly combust and Venus, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are all retrograde.

Saturn and Rahu are jointly transiting natal Ketu point whose sub-period will be in operation. And this will not help him in becoming the Prime Minister. Today the Congress(I)'s horoscope is very strong,

but Rajiv Gandhi's is a drag. Just after the elections or a little later, the Congress(I) members may have to accept the leadership of a person other than Rajiv Gandhi to be the PM.

The astrological chart also shows that the people of the states will dictate terms. The Centre will no longer be in a position to dictate terms. We are going to see the emergence of a number of regional leaders and forces. We will have a kind of a national government without the BJP to start with, but the BJP will also be in it by the end of May 1992.

Therefore, the ultimate choice will be Jyoti Basu. My assumptions are based on the position of the stars on the day Ivoti Basu assumed the chief ministership of West Bengal in 1977. Moon and Saturn were located in the Aslesha constellation. So, before he completes the 15th year in office, he has to leave the chair for a better position. When Jupiter and Mercury are together in Vrisha Raashi and Moon is in the constellation of Aslesha, the native gets a remarkable success in career in his 14th year. As such, before the end of July 1991 Jyoti Basu has to be elevated. Moreover, we are in the operation period of Venus and it will have to bring in a man from the East. A person born in Bombay cannot be the Prime Minister.

Regarding the other leaders, V.P. Singh has no chance of becoming the Prime Minister either. His vote bank will be absolutely empty. His only consolation is that his arch enemy, Rajiv Gandhi, will not be the Prime Minister. The National Front will not be able to become the single largest party in Parliament. However, some of its constituents, like the Telugu Desam, are likely to improve their position and might help the Congress in forming the government without Rajiv Gandhi.

N.T. Rama Rao will be able to increase the number of seats that his party had got in the last elections. But there is absolutely no chance of his becoming the PM He can never become the PM in his life.

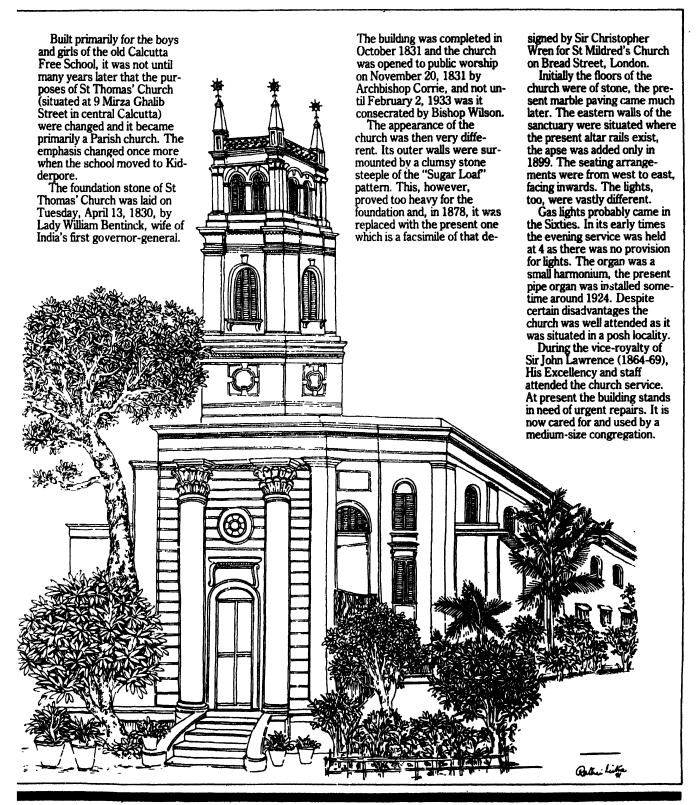
The BJP leader, L.K. Advani, cannot be the PM either, though he will do very well in the coming elections. The other leader of the party, Atal Behari Vajpayee's horoscope is not picking up either. If it had picked up by now he would have been the PM because it's a very favourable time for his party. The base of the BJP will expand both qualitatively and quantitatively, though the number of seats captured by it will not be equal to its expanded base.

There is no chance for Chandra Shekhar either to become the PM again. He faces a great physical risk between May 15 and July 5, and he must take care against this.

Madhuchanda Dasgupta, Pranay Sharma, Lekha Rattanani and G.C. Shekhar



ST THOMAS' CHURCH



INNER EYE Dejan Daruwalla

RIES

March 21---April 20 Socialising and adventures, part-

nerships and collaborations, pleasure and pain will be your lot this week. You will love madly and crazily. The week will be favourable for a business transaction. Despite a pleasurable social round, health will be your main enemy. Travel with a stop-over is probable.



AURUS

April 21-Mey 20 Home and property, renovation and decoration, buying and selling, trading and commission will be vital for you. You will have time for fun and games despite a

busy schedule. Financially you will have money to play with and call the shots. The throat and the stomach will trouble you. A home away from home or a change of scenery is very likely.



EMINI

May 21-June 20 Expect money and gift, legacy and loans

this week. In romance, you will wine and dine, coo and woo most happily. Your health will improve and you will move about very freely. Journey and communication are the highlights of the week for you.



ANCER

June 21-July 20 Good food, fine friends, bags of

money and excellent entertainment are promised this week for Cancerians. Romance will be nice and easy, but not hot and important. You could feel a bit below the weather. Travel is indicated for work and, paradoxically, leisure. Regarding your health, jogging, a game of bad-minton or table-tennis should keep the doctor away.



E0

July 21---August 21 The main trends of the week are romance, partnerships, marriage, divorce, collaborations and journey for Leos. Romance is your destiny, specially after the 12th. Expenses will again be the cross you may have to bear. Healthwise many high and lows are preseen this week. The second

the week favours travel.





















IRGO

August 22-Sept 22 You will be introspective. Expenses will

multiply. Travel is a very positive indication. You will be able to fuse business and pleasure wonderfully well. Employed Virgos will have a chance to show their mettle. A promotion or a job switch is probable. Because of over work, a medical check-up is advisable.



IBRA

Sept 23-Oct 22 Friendship and support, love and mar-

riage, buying and selling of a house, office and properties characterise the week. Romance will be beautiful for you. Those in trading and business do well. Health of elders could tell upon your health. Travel will help you to pull strings and have happy relationships.



Mav 12

Moon-Mercury conjunction: This union makes you dynamic, volatile, restless and a go-getter. Your work will be done. Your creativity and enterprise will be recognised and duly rewarded. Collaborations and foreign connections will be extremely useful.

May 13

Moon square Saturn, trine Uranua: There will be swings of good and bad fortune. Health of perents and in-laws may cause some concern. Journey, collaboration and publicity are the other strong points. Those in academics and research do very

May 14

New moon: An excellent year for starting ventures, doing some-thing different and exciting, taking a trip, attending to the home and just having a fling. A birthcar to take chances.

May 15

Moon sextile Jupiter: More money and a great accent on family and relatives are the highlights of your birthyear. Those in buying, selling, trading and purchasing do well. Journey and collaboration are also in order. A year to flex your financial and emotional muscles.

Mav 16

Moon sextile Mercury: Those in travel, sales, computers, food, energy and chemicals do wonders. An important journey is also predicted. Children give joy.

May 17

Moon conjunction Venus, opposition Uranus: While your work will be done, there could be some opposition to plans. This should not be allowed to influence you unduly. Keep relationships fluid and correspond clearly. It would be ideal to expand your orbit of influence; do socialise.

May 18

Moon conjunction Mars: This union makes you daring and creative, it is time to reach out to people and places. Matters related to housing and beautification of the home or office will be of mighty importance. A home away from home is the bonanza on this birthday.



CORPIO

Oct 23--Nov 22 A new high in status, prestige and honour

is foretold. Do expect a promoticn, perks, pelf and power. Ro-mance will be sidetracked because work will consume your. time and energy. Financially this is an excellent week. Your health will stand up to the tremendous pressures and pulls and therefore feel free to go right ahead.



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23-Dec 20 This is a fine week for ceremonies, func-

tions, meetings, enterprise and publicity campaigns. You will love with passion and devotion. In finance expect a contract, a settlement or a new business deal. Your health improves and thus you will be able to work hard.



APRICORN

Dec 21-- Jan 19 Loans, legacy, joint finance, taxes, insur-

ance, buying and selling, transfers and shifts, are the important indications this week. In romance, you will love with great intensity and a spirit of sacrifice. It is time to make a good investment or a fast buck.



QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18 Marriage and children, boss and home.

research and experiment will help you to make much of this week. This is the right time for engagement, marriage or romance. Loans and funds will be available so make good use of money. Your health improves but that of family members will cause you some concern. Long distance travel and perhaps immigration are also the salient features for you.



The focus is on work, health, responsibili-

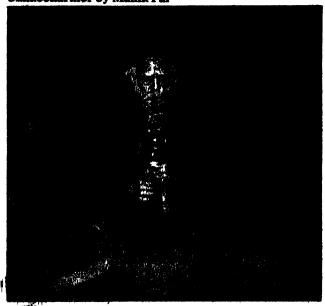
ties and a superior level of excellence. Secret meetings, open and happy courtships are the contradictory predictions for you. The week promises a lot of lending, borrowing, buying, selling. trading or going in for agency and brokerage. As regards health, if you are not careful, you could be in a clinic or a hospital. An important journey awaits you in the next 15 days.

Confiscated exotic furs and aning skins worth over Rs 70 lakh were consigned to the thanes near the Delhi no recently And who should have done a but the charged Maneka Gandhi? The bonfire was organised by the Pune-based Beauty Without Cruelty, in collaboration with * the wildlife warden of Delhr and the Union government to create awareness for the need for the preservation of wildlife

> Photographs: Jagdish Yaday

E RED

The infant Krishna by Sasanka Pal Snakecharmer by Manik Pal



GODS WITH CLAY ON THEIR HANDS

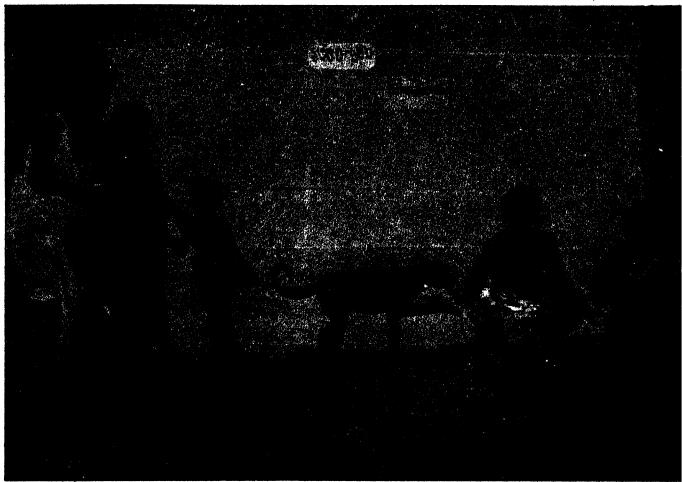
The internationally renowned artistes of Kumartuli recently held an exhibition to celebrate their city's tercentenary.

Uttam Roy froze

some of the work for posterity

A pet artiste and his work by Badal Pal





The Bengal famine of 1942 by Kanai Pal

A potter family at work by Jatindranath Pal and Murari Pal

They were organising something like this after a long period of 28 years. And the occasion was something they had a right to celebrate more than anyone else: Calcutta's tercentenary. The city that owes so much to this band of clay artistes, renowned for their clay images of gods and goddesses, who have put their little para called Kumartuli on the world map.

The Kumartuli Mritshilpi Sanskriti Samiti held this exhibition for a fortnight (April 19-May 3), which was inaugurated by sculptor Sunil Pal. The occasion was marked by the august presence of Lady Ranu Mukherjee and Justice Mahitosh Majumdar.

The most exciting news is perhaps their intention to have a permanent art gallery at Kumartuli which will be open throughout the year. Even the gods would welcome that.

THE OKAY' THE OKAY' TAKE, TAKE,

It was a paradox. While the Nandi awards of the Andhra Pradesh state government overlooked his sterling performance in his recent film, Seetharamaiyagari Manavaralu (Grand-daughter of Seetharamaiya), his nomination for the Dadasaheb Phalke award came the very

One of the biggest
superstars of the south
and arguably one of the
finest actors, too, in
commercial cinema, A.

Nageswar Rao was sixth
time lucky when he was
honoured with the
Dadasaheb Phalke award
this year. G.S.

RADHAKRISHNA gives
a run-down on ANR's
career which also
turns gold

next day. "I was thrilled at not getting the state award," a rather bitter Akkineni Nageswar Rao had said; and he did not hide his glee when confiding that he had been in the running for the sixth consecutive year for the Dadasaheb Phalke award, the highest cinematic honour in the land. For an actor who has starred in 233 films in four southern languages (and just one in

Hindi, Suvarna Sundari) opposite nearly 62 heroines, the prestigious award has come at the right time; ANR, as he is popularly known, also completes a 50-year tenure in the Telugu film industry this year, too. With a box-office success rate of 80 per cent, perhaps on par with his Shiva-fame son and current superstar, Nagarjuna.

Akkinem Nageswar Rao is also known as the Tragedy King of India for his breathtaking histrionics which set the pattern in the industry, beginning with Devdas, then Premnagar and Meghasandesham. He was always the better artiste if a comparison is ever attempted between ANR and NTR; what ANR lacked was the pomposity of a star and the thunder of a superstar which qualities of N.T.Rama Rao put soul into the dazzling mythological roles he played so often.

But NTR could never ever achieve the level of performance as a lovelorn husband or a burnt-out lover which ANR could portray effortlessly. Although both the actors represented extreme views, the Telugu producers of fame always brought them together on the studio floors to present the best of Telugu cinema for the audience. Hence, in the Fifties and Sixties, ANR and NTR became two of the hottest selling ingredients of film masala.

ANR was born in Venkata Raghavapuram in Gudivada takuka of Krishna district in 1924 and his sensuous looks and delicate physique had been suitably used in state theatre groups as a child artiste in female attire. For nearly a decade in the Telugu celluloid world, ANR was popular for his historic female role —Bruhannala. His first film, however, was Dharmapatni in 1941 and his latest blockbuster has been 1941 and his latest blockbuster has been Seetharamaiyagari Mansvaraku. His best performance has been in his portrayal of characters of Vipranarayama, Devdas, Mahakavi Kalidas, Bhakta Jaidev and



Akkineni Nageswar Rao (centre) with Roll Tensii Ramakrishna. His eloquent performances in *Batasari* (A Traveller) earned him his nickname as a wanderer for quite some time. He was again cast in the same role by director Dasari Narayan Rao recently in *Bahudurapu Bathasari* which, however, flopped.

Both NTR and ANR had a running duel on the acreen for nearly a decade, each attempting to 'one-up' the other. The inbuilt hostility between them did not evaporate despite their working together in the same films. ANR scored over NTR in the role of Arjuna in the mythologicals and NTR outsmarted ANR as an innocent lover in Malleswari and Misamma. The feud

corporation to acquire the land alloted to the studio and allegedly not used for cinema development purpose. The issue, however, got checkmated at the high court level.

While NTR reigned as the uncrowned king of mythologicals and became a god

face to face with NTR.

Nageswar Rao is the only actor from the south to receive the Dadasaheb Phalke award. The three other recipients from the south were also Andhraites—B.N. Reddy, B. Nagi Reddy and L.V. Prasad—but all of them were producers/directors.



ngady and Murali Mohan in Seetharamaiyagari Manavaralu

extended to real life, too. When NTR entered politics, many tried to induct ANR into the political fray. Although ANR refrained and buried his differences, NTR did not. One of the major acts of NTR after taking over the reigns of power in the state was to attack ANR and his studios for which the government had sanctioned land. NTR had even got the municipal

Section of the Artist

incarnate for his admirers, ANR had an equally enviable reputation in social films. It was his film, Dasara Bollidu which was the box-office formula for the Seventies. It was his tearjerker, Promnagar, which set another trend in Telagui films which even NTR was compelled to follow. In mythologicals, a few of which he acted in, ANR excelled as an actor even when he was

Although he did not speak out of any chauvinism for the south, he was critical of the condescending attitude towards the southern artistes. He had lashed out against the northern impression of southern stars as "wig, mascara and paint artistes". It is the south that had given a fresh lease of life to the Indian film industry and also kept it rolling. More than 60

per cent of technicians and artistes in the Indian industry were from the south, he had contended in an interview. He felt that the south was yet to get its due share in national honours. ANR himself has been honoured with a Padmashri in 1968 and the Padma Vibhushan 20 years later: the state government has honoured him with the Raghupathi Venkayya award last year and he was given a doctorate and a Kalaprapoorna honour by the Andhra University in

hespian ANR was also known for his production ventures through which he tried to give the Andhra audience a different genre of films. He joined hands with a noted director, A. Subba Rao, and produced Sudi Gundalu and Maro Prapancham. Both films flopped at the box-office, however, and put an end to the promotion of serious cinema by a superstar.

ANR has also earned the respect of the industry by offering to shift his operations to Hyderabad. Although NTR and ANR were beneficiaries of a project by former Congress(I) chief minister K. Brahmananda Reddy to shift the Telugu industry to Hyderabad, it was only ANR who took serious measures to set up a fullfledged studio in the capital. The Annapoorna Studio, named after his wife, is one of the tourist spots in the city today, set up in the Jubilee Hills valley. However the studio was a non-starter owing to a lack of proper response from Telugu film producers in Madras. Most of the films produced in ANR's studio were either his own or his son Nagarjuna's. He created facilities for some teleserial productions, too, with a massive garden adjacent to the studio.

Despite ANR's contribution to the pulp genre with his Dasara Bolludu, his career went downswing in the late Eighties. He had almost considered entering politics as the Congess(I) candidate for countering NTR, but he was dissuaded by his friends in the industry. Although he concentrated

ANR in Raogari Illu



on films to fill the void created by the exit of NTR, he was not favoured by Lady Luck. Besides, the new generation of Krishna, Chiranjeevi and Suman had already emerged in a big way and were confident of edging out the oldies from the running-round-the-trees gimmicks. It was at this juncture that two Dasari directed films, Meghasandesham and Justice Chakravarthi revived his faltering career.

ANR as chocolate-face hero and Andhra's Dilip Kumar, has successfully passed into ANR the character actor of the Eighties. With his *Premabhishekam* and *Justice Chakravarthi*, a new vista has opened for the aging superstar. Although





Akkineni Nageswar Rao: 'Superstar of the Social'

nearly 20 films produced in this period did not set the box-office on fire, they were not flops either. He did not hesitate to pair himself in some of the films with his son, the current rage. As a character actor he seems to have excelled himself again.

ANR now appears in Telugu cinema as a grandfather. his new image, but one of his ambitions remains unfulfilled: to play the character of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa to symbolise his 50 years in the celluloid world.

The Phalke award, ANR told us, "has been given for the quality of my films, not the quantity". He felt that the present-day themes, centring around crime and violence had left little scope for talents like him. Hence, he had also cut down his acting assignments to one or two films a year now.

ANR is one actor who has not tried his hand in direction despite such a fund of experience. "I have no aptitude for direction as I feel that I have a lot to learn as an actor still. My only objective is to never turn into an irresponsible actor," he said modestly.

His only regret in life has been his failure to rejuvenate meaningful cinema in Telugu. After his initial failure with Sudi Gundalu and Maro Prapancham, he holds out that it was not his mistake as he could get no producers to accept new themes or approaches; his producers and directors contended that they knew better and many scripts were created to exploit his personality and talent. However, critics felt that there was a reason for his tilting towards socialism. "ANR was an atheist who considered his mother his deity, an inspiration for all his creative work," explained one critic.

ANR is well known for his philanthropic activities. He has funded a college in Gudivada in Krishna district and also set up a chair in almost all the universities in the state. "It is a sort of wish fulfilment bacause of my own lack of proper education in the early stages," he said. Unlike NTR, who is a double graduate, ANR is only a matriculate.

Though he did not go into politics earlier, he is not averse to it now. "Why not?" he asks. "Now that I have achieved almost everything I wanted in the film industry I feel I should try my hand in politics, too." But those who know him intimately confide that he would never do such a thing basically because of his poor health. He has to take a medical trip to the US every

Despite his sunken eyes, short stature and lack of propah etiquette, ANR's popularity in real life matches his screen charisma. "It is my enthusiasm to learn much more in life that keeps me winning friends and fans."

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All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Anyee Milan Kf Rant: Ehte (S N Banerjee Road, 241383), Moonlight (T.C Dutta Street

254956), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street, 554033), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road, 484808), Madhuban (Regent Park) Avinash Wadhwan and Shaheen

are the lead pair in this film, directed by K Pappu Others co-starring are Anupam Kher, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Aloknath, Aruna Irani, Rita Bhaduri and Paresh Rawal. The music is by Anand Miland.

• Afsana Pyar Ka: Roxy (Chowringhee Place, 284138), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Krishna (T C Dutta Street, 250437), Mitra

Upasan Singh in Resewati

(Badhan Saram, 551133), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 351382), Ragmi (Behaghata Mam Road, 363264), Priya (Rashbehar Avenue, 464440), Kalika (Sadananda Road, 478141)

Directed by Shahjahan and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Aamir Khan and Neelam.

• Ajooba: Paradise (Bentinck Street, 285442), Indira (Indra Roy Road, 471757), Khanna (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 552932)— 4 shows.

A film by Shashi Kapoor, starring Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor, Diruple Kapadia, Sonam, Shannui Kapoor and Amrish Puri. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

 Benaam Badsha: Orient (Bentinck Street, 281917), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, 244822), Tajkie Show House (Shibdas Bhadun Street, 552270), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road, 365108), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue, 410417)

Anil Kapoor and Julu Chawla are the lead pair The film is directed by K Ravi Shankar and the music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal

 Ramwati: New Cmema (Lenn Saranı, 270147)—4 shows Directed by Yash Chauhan, the

Directed by Yash Chauhan, the film's main cast comprises Upasna Singh, Anupam Kher, Kiran Kumar, Dalip Tahil and Kader Khan The music is by Usha Khama.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S N Banerjee Road, 242664)—4

Salman Khan and debutante Chandru play the lead in this recent box-office hit Others co-starring are new-find Kanchan, Puneet Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Darmy and ka Pran The film is directed by A film on the evils of the dowry system, starring Sunil Dutt, Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Shakti Kapoor, Ranjeet, Bindu and debutante Sheeba. The film is directed by Sunil Dutt and the music is by Ravindra Jam.

Bengali Films

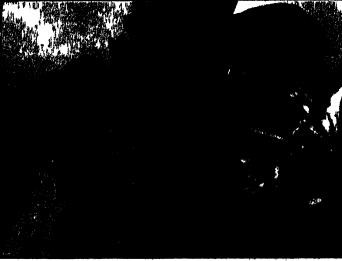
• Anmeer Seathi: Darpana (Bidhan Sarani, 558080), Purna (S P Mukherjee Road, 474567)— 2 30, 5 30, 8 15, Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road, 271282)—2, 5, 7 45

Directed by Sali Dutta, the chief attractions of this film are Arjun Chakraborty, Satabdi Roy, Manoj Mitra, Rabi Ghose, Abhijit Sen and Jun Banerjee The music is by Mrmal Banerjee

 Beder Meye Josma: Rupbam (Bidhan Saram, 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road, 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road, 474686)—1, 4, 7.
 One of the buggest hits in recent

One of the buggest hits in recent times, this Bangladesh production stars Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh Others in the cast are Safuddin, Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Soma, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarinath and Bulbul. The film is directed by Matiyur Rehman Panu and the music is by Abu Taher

 Katha Dilam: Radha (Bidhan Saram, 553045)—2 30, 5 30, 8 15.
 Directed by Rajat Das and with



Amitabh Bachchan and Maneck Irani in Ajoebe

Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor

• Shikari: Jyoti (Lenin Sarami, 241132)—4 shows

Mithum Chakraborty, Naseeruddin Shah, Varsha Usgaonkar, Natasha and Amrish Puri conquise the main cast The film is directed by Umesh Mehra and the music is by Amau Mahk

• Yeh Ang Kab Bujhegi: Metro (Chownighee Road; 280141)— music by Ajoy Das, the cast of this film includes Prasentit, Ayesha Julka, Shakuntala Barua, Soumitra Banerjee and Sukhen Das.

 Mahaprithivi: Mınar (Bıdhan Saranı, 552753), Bıyoh (S.P. Mukhenee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3, 5 45, 8.15

A Mrinal Sen film, starring Victor Banerjee, Soumitra Chatterjee, Geeta Sen, Aujan Dutt, Amusua Majumdar and Aparna Sen.

• Prem Pujari: Minar (Bidhan iarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. lukherjee Road; 473462), Chhaighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 52740)-3 shows.

Directed by Nandan Dasgupta nd with music by Swapan Jagmoan, the film stars Praseniit. atabdi Roy, Manoj Mitra, Jeepankar De, Rajeshwari Roy houdhury and Nirmal Kumar.

Rin Sodh: Sree (Bidhan Sarani: 51515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi 'oad; 350680), Ujjala (Russa oad; 478666)-3 shows.

Directed by Bimal Kumar, the lm stars Govinda, Juhi Chawla, ader Khan and Shakti Kapoor,

Foreign Films

Cocktail (A): Metro (Chowrighee Road; 280141)-4 shows. Die Hard 2 (A): New Empire Humayun Place; 291299)-12, 3, , 8.30.

The film stars Bruce Willis. He-Man and the Masters of he Universe: Chaplin (Corporaon Place; 246563)-4 shows.

- Just Married (A): Jamuna (Marquis Street; 243715)-4 shows.
- Moon in the Gutter (A): Globe (Lindsay Street; 296665)-4 shows.
- Police Story 2: Lighthouse (Humayun Place; 291051)-4 shows: Navina (Prince Anwar Shah Road; 468091)-12, 3, 6; Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045)—2.30,

The film stars Jackie Chan.

Special Events

12 & 13 May: 3 pm - 8 pm

Group '87 presents the 4th exposition of recent art works (painting, graphic and sculpture) of Anita Das, Arunesh Chowdhuri, Anjan Dubay, Bela Karmakar, Kisore Chakraborty, Sovan Roy Kanjilal and Vinayak Bhattacharya.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302). 12-18 May: 6.30 pm

Rabindrajanmotsav, organised by Rabindra Sadan, features a Rabindrasangeet (Puja) session at 9.30 am and dance-drama Shapmochan, presented by Nupur at 6.30 pm on 12th; a musical feature, Ki Ragini Bajaley Hridaye, by Saptak and a programme of Rabindrasangeet on 13th; a Rabindrasangeet (Prakriti) session on 14th; a programme of recitation and Kavi Sammelan at 6 pm on 15th; recitations and programmes by artistes from Bangladesh on 16th; a Rabindrasangeet (Swadesh, Bichitra and Anusthanik) session on 17th; and Aamra Sabai Raja by Nrityam, Dui Bigha Zamin (mime) by Mouna Mukhar, Mukut by Sishu Rangan and group Rabindrasangeet by children on 18th.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral

Road; 289978).
12-17 May: 6 pm
Rabindra Sadan's Rabindrajanmotsav features a programme of Rabindrasangeet (Prem) on 12th; play Raktakarabi by Prantik (Behrampore) on 13th; dancedrama Chitrangada by Aagaami on 14th; play Prayaschitta by Bhash Natya Sangstha on 15th; Bilati Gaan O Rabindrasangeet by Prob ahmi on 16th, and dance-drama Shyama by Malhar on 17th.

At Maidan Manch (opp Rabindra Sadan).

17 May: 6.45 pm

South India Club presents the Usha Uthup Show by Usha Uthup and the Sound

At Kala Mandır (Shakespeare Sarani: 449086).

17 May: 7 pm

Kabyageeti O Rabindrasangeet-a discussion accompanied by demonstration by Aloke Roychoudhury.

At Milan Mandir (APC Road).

18 May: 6.30 pm

Anamika presents the Hindi play, Bari Buaji, based on Badal Sircar's original Bengali script and translated by Dr Pratibha Agarwal Directed by Birnal Lath, the cast includes Vinita Rellin, Ajay Chaturvedi. Yogesh Suri, Anna Bhattacharya, Laxmi Prasad, Nutan Kumud and Dinesh Thakkar.

At Kala Mandir [Basement] (Shakespeare Sarani; 449086).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

alcutta-Bombay-London-New ork: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230 lombay-Calcutta-Bangkokokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915, lep. (5): Al-306 at 2020. okyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-lombay: Arr. (6) Al-309 at 1910, lep. (6): Al-309 at 2025 ondon-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (7):

J-132/1328 at 1230. Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr.

1): SU-537 at 1525. Calcutta-Sharlah-Moscow:

lep. (4): SU-538 at 1725. Moscow-Tashkent-Karachiiaicutta-Hanol: Arr. (2): SU-541 t 0640; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0750. Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-

ashkent-Moscow: Arr (2). SU-42 at 1615; Dep. (2) SÚ-542 at 815.

mman-Calcutta: Arr. (4) RJ-184 1 0645.

alcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-85 at 0530.

Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok: rr. (1). RO-063 at 1115, Arr. (6). IO-063 at 1045; Dep. (1) RO-063 at 1230, Dep. (6): RO-063 at 1200. Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest:

Bangkor-Calcutta-Dastral Dastral Rr. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2015; Dep. I, 6): RO-064 at 2130.

alcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): Q-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-20 at 1310.

Ingapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): SQ-16 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at 210.

alcutte-Bangkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7): 2-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-14 at 1355.

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1455.

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): *RA-213 at 1355.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-723 at 1340; Dep. (daily): BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935. Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-724 at 1600; Arr. (daily). BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855. Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 1950.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1910

Calcutta-Parc: Dep (2). KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2). KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India # Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (2) Al-101 at 0230.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1) Al-1328 at 1230.

Indian Airlines **s**

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-176 at 0900 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr. (daily) IC-274 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0800.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-765 at 1700, Dep. (6): IC-265 at 1700; Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-766 at 2210, Arr. (6). IC-266 at 2205

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

Calcutta-Bangaiore: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6, 7): IC-771 at 0620; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6, 7): IC-772 at 1200.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-410 at 0615

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily): IC-409 at

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0730; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-741 at 0835 and IC-743 at 1330; Arr. (daily): IC-742 at 1055 and IC-744 at 1550.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0530, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1130, Dep. (3, 5, 7). IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1525, Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (1): IC-221 at 1300, Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (1): IC-222 at 1520, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-222 at 1320.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (2, 3, 4. 5, 6, 7): IC-201 at 1400; Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-202 at 1730

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily): IC-255 at 0610; Arr. (daily) IC-256 at 1050.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-257 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7). IC-257 at

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6) IC-269 at 1650; Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-270 at

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1, 2. 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650; Arr (1, 2. 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-277 at 1720; Arr (1, 2, 4. 7), IC-278 at 2210

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-542 at 1000.

Madras-Vishakapatnam-Calcutta: Arr (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-541 at

Vayudoot W

Calcutta-Agartala-Kailashahar: Dep. (2, 4). PF-729 at 0710; Arr (2, 4): PF-730 at 1120.

Calcutta-Shillong-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6). PF-701 at 0710, Dep. (7) PF-701 at 1210;

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta. + No traffic rights on Calcutta-Bangkok-Calcutta

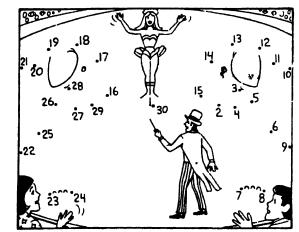
T 7 DATS

Arr (1 3 5 b) PF 702 at 1120 Arr (7) PF 702 at 1620 Calcutte-Agartala-Silchar Dep (7) PF 729Å at 0710 Arr (7) PF 730Å at 1140 Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) PF-717 at 0630 Dep (2 4 6) PF-717A at 1330 Arr (1 2, 3 4 5 6) PF-718 at 0825 Arr (2 4 6) PF-718A at 1525

Calcutta-Agartaia-Alzawi Dep (2 4 6 7) PF-705 at 0855 Arr (2 4, 6 7) PF-706 at 1300 Calcutta-Agartaia-Alzawi-Calcutta. Dep (1 3 5) PF-705A at 1250 Arr (1 3 5) PF-706A at 1635 Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (1 3 5) PF-707 at 0855, Arr (1, 3, 5) PF-708 at 1150

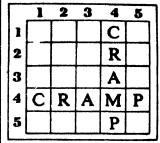
Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY	Y Arr	Arrival		arture	SOUTH-EASTERN	Arr	Arrivei	
Up	Time	Howr a h	Time	Dn			RAILWAY			
2311 3005	19-00 19-20	Deihi-Kaika Mail Amritaar Mail	8-50	2312	Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn	
3003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	8-05 13-15	3006 3004	6003		***************************************			
2381	9-15	Air-Cond (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	20-40	Madras Mall	7-00	600	
	5-15	press via Gaya-Varanasi	10-00	2302	2860	19-20	Bombay Mell via Nagpur	8-00	800	
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat			8034	12-35 20-20	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express Ahmedabad Express	15-05	285	
		Arr-Wed Fri & Sun			8030	11-30		5-05	803	
2303	9 -15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex- press via Patna	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur Coromandel (Madras) Ex- press	15-60 11-50	802 284	
		Dep-Mon Wed Fri & Sun Arr-Mon Tues Thurs & Sat			2611	22-35	Bengalore Express Dep-Tues	13-45	261	
2301	16-00	Rejdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	į		Arr-Sun			
		week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	801	
		Dep-Mon Tues Thurs Fri &			8011	6-10	lepet Express	21-45	801	
		Sun			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	800	
		Arr-Tues Wed Thurs Sat &			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	801	
		Sun			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	800	
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkly	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jaganneth (Puri) Express Via Naraj	7-45	8410	
E 44	10.15	Dep-Tues Fri & Sat Arr-Tues Wed & Sat		07.40	2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex- press	21-20	282	
2547	13 15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex- press	4-15	2548	8079	23-20	Tirupati Express	4-15	8080	
		Dep—Mon & Thurs Arr—Thurs & Mon			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Express	14-55	804	
009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-20	3010	8017	16-45	Purulia Express Dep—Except Saturday Arr—Except Sunday	11-20	801	
007	9-4 5	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	_	
1049	13-05	Amritaar Express	15-45	3050			Monday only			
011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	l	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	260	
039	20 55	Delhi Janeta Express via Main Line	5-30	3040			- Guwahati Express Saturday only	.5 .5		
019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	l —	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649	
021	22-00	Mithila Express	5-00	3022	1		Guwahati Weekiy Express			
557	6-00	Kanchenjunga E press	20-50	2558	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)			
659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660	i .		Thursday only			
317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwaheti-Cochin Herbour	22-15	_	
029	17 15	Coelfield Express	10-30	3030	1		Terminus Weekly Express			
035	18 20	Asensol Express	8-45	3036			(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)			
031	21 00	Denapur Express	6-35	3032	1		Saturday only			
025	23-00	North Bihar Express DepWednesday	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cuchin Harbour Terminus Superfast Express (via	13-45	265	
071	99 AE	Arr—Friday		00==			Visakhapatnam & Madras)			
U/ I	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6-00	3072	l		Dep-Fri & Sun			
		Dep—Tues Thurs & Sat					Arr-Tues & Fri			
01 <i>E</i>	A = -	Arr Mon Thurs & Sat	4=		2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	_	
015 150	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	1		Weekly Express (via Howrah			
159	15 25	Chambel (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160	1		& Cuttack)			
		weekly Superfact Express			1		Wednesday only			
		Dep-Thurs Sat & Sun Arr-Tues Wed & Thurs			_	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	267	
171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express Dep-Tues & Wed	7-30	1172			Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)			
		Arr—Sat & Sun			2610	20.05	Monday only	20 45		
327	15-25	Shektipunj (Chopen) Ex- press	7-30	3328	2010	22-35	Petna-Cochin Harbour Ter- minus Weekly Express (via	22-15		
		Dep & Arr-Mon & Fri]		Howrah) Thursday only			
049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patna Weekly Express (via	13-45	2600	
		Sealdah					Howrah) Wednesday only			
143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	1		- -			
153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154						
151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152	ENQU	RIES: Fo	r round the clock information of	Eastern I	Relive	
133	20-45	Mughal Saral Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	trains,	please d er inform	ial 203545-54 for in-coming trait nation. For information about	ne, 20353 recervati	5-44 fo ons o	
103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express	10-25	3104			ruth Eastern Railways trains, dis			
	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly					weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm			

JUNIOR WHIRL & Hall Koufman



STANDOUT ACT! What can you draw to complete the amazing balancing act above? Add connecting lines 1 to 2 to 3, etc.

 SIT COM! Sit on the floor knees drawn up close to your body feet resting flat on soles. Now fold arms and try to stand up without any help.



WRITER'S CAMPI

One of the five five letter words— CRAMP—is already in place in this word square. How quickly can you find the rest?

Definitions

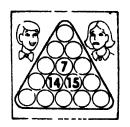
- 1 Take part in a parade 2 Clear, sky-blue colour
- 2 Clear, sky-blue colour 3 Rustic, as opposed to urban
- 4 Hamper one s style (already
- inserted)
 5 Lends assistance to some one in need

He be namps brow a redmement whose the bar name of the second for the second for the bar second for the bar name of the bar na

e RACK BRAINS! Three of 15 numbered pool balls are in the rack below. They total 36. You are challenged to position the remaining 12 balls so that the five balls on each side of the rack also total 36.

Balls are numbered 1-15 and each number appears just once Can you come up with an answer?

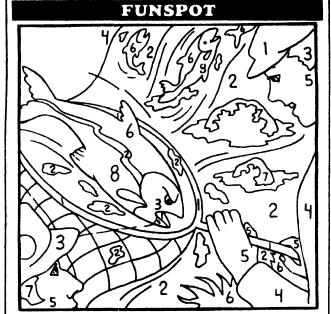
One way Place 8 at top and continue clockwise 12 9 1 6 13 4 10 2 5 11





CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differ ences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Offerences 1 Bow is smaller 2 Sign is missing 3 Jacket is slimmer 4 Scoop is missing 5 Number is different 6 for cream cone is moved



NET GAIN! A fish in a net is worth two in a stream — unless it jumps out Add these colors 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Fiesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk green

SPELLBINDER								
SCORE 10 points for using ell the letters in the word below to form two complete words DISPERSE								
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters								
Try to score at least 50 points								



QUIZ D Neil O'Brien

J.K. Joseph, Siliguri, has questions on some national anthems.

The concept of a national anthem is a relatively young tradition. It has been only just over 200 years that countries have felt a need to unite around a single stirring melody as an audio substitute for the flee.

tute for the flag.
A really stirring anthem is, La Marséillaise. Actually, the song should more properly be called La Strasbourgaise. It was written in 1792 by Captain Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle, an army engineer based in Strasbourg. The town's mayor commissioned him to write an energetic tune for the troops to march to, and he dashed it off in an evening. Two months later, it was on the lips of a battalion of volunteers from Marseilles as they trooped into Paris and proud Frenchmen have been standing tall when it has been played ever since. A couple of years ago, Paris pop star Serge Gainsbourg recorded a reggae version called Aux Armes Etcetera and rightists practically lynched him for his disrespect. France's kids, on the other hand, bought 400,000 copies and the disc was

named record of the year.
The best known of all the world's anthems is probably Britain's 'God Save the



11th Question: Where did Somerset Maugham get the title for his book *The* Moon and Sixpence from? (Devi Prasad V, 38 Rangan Street, T Nagar, Madras 600017)

Ans: It was taken from a review of his earlier novel Of Human Bondage in the Times Literary Supplement "So busy yearning for the moon that he never saw the sixpence at his feet".

Queen' (or King, depending). The words and music date back to the 1600s but it was first officially played for royalty on September 28, 1745 by the orchestra of the Drury Lane Theatre after the curtain had rung down on a performance of Ben Johnson's *The Alchemist*. George II was in the royal box and soon it became the custom to strike up the patriotic melody whenever he appeared.

VIP's visiting Georgian Britain went away impressed with this stand-and-deliver idea and, in rapid succession, the 'God Save the King' melody became unofficial anthems for Switzerland, Sweden, Russia, Denmark and Germany. It is still Liechtenstein's official anthem. In the US, the anti-royal colonials rewrote the tune as 'My Country Tis of Thee.' Many Commonwealth countries play the anthem as a mark of

respect on the occasion of royal visits and to honour their war dead who perished for king and country.

Australia resorted to a plebiscite in 1977 to select a new national anthem. 'Waltzing Matilda' had long been the country's unofficial anthem but purists did not like its Aussie slang or the fact that it honoured a sheep stealer and owed its heritage to a Scotish folk song first adapted for Australians by 'Banjo' Paterson at a horserace in 1895. The winner turned out to be 'Advance Australia Fair.' It was not unscathed, however: feminists managed to ram through a quick rewrite which eliminated lyrics about 'loyal sons, replacing them with unisex phrases instead.

It took Canada 17 years of post-World War II political debate and fourteen separate pieces of legislation before it belatedly settled on 'O Canada' as its anthem. The tune is French-Canadian in origin and dates back to 1880 when it was first sung at a banquet in Quebec City. Its author had been a Union Army musician during the American Civil War and a minstrel show orchestra conductor on Broadway.

The new anthem has both English and French lyrics, reflecting Canada's twin cultures. When it was first officially sung in Ottawa for Canada's 113th birthday, fierce debate raged as to which language should be used. The Solomon-like decision was to split the choir in two, half singing in French, the rest in English, with the result that the audience could not understand a word.

Possibly the strangest national anthem is that of the Netherlands. It dates back to 1568 and is a sad lament about the defeat of William of Nassau. Each of the 15 verse begins with a letter which collectively spell out his name and in its lyrics, Dutchman William proudly declares that he is a loyal subject of the king of Spaini

Denmark has two anthems; one for the King, another for the people. The Germans sing only the third verse of their national song. Japan's four-line anthem 1888 is so short, it is customary to sing the same verse twice.

QUESTIONS

1) Which Royal enjoys working on intricate jigsaw puzzles? (Anjanava Datta, Calcutta 31)
2) What is back slang? (Othello Mazoomdaar, Boral)
3) Which poet's cocker spaniel was kidnapped and ransomed thrice? (Subrata Haldar, Hooghly)

4) Which community represents 52%, 24%, 18%, 5% and 1% of the total respective population of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and USSR? (Rahmat Ali, Calcutta 14)

begin with certainties he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts he shall end in certainties"? (Anuradha Acharya, Kharagpur) 6) What is hytephobia? Manoj Kumar Singh, Patratu) 7) What is the lowest margin of victory in a Lok Sabha election? (Kumar Shakti Shekhar, Deihi) 8) Why was Margaret Thatcher nicknamed 'Tina'? (Sabyasachi Dey, Burdwan)

9) Which is the only Hitch-

cock film to win the Oscar

5) Who said, "If a man will

for best film? (Swetansu Sekhar Dash, Jharsuguda 2)

10) For sumo wrestlers what is *Mawash?* (Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Durgapur 4)

ANSWERS

6) The stends for There is no sitemative.
Is no sitemative.
9) Rebeccs.
10) The conventional loin cloth 10 yards long and 2 it wide, folded 6 times and wispped sround the waist of Sumo fighter 4 to 7 to 14 to 15 to 1

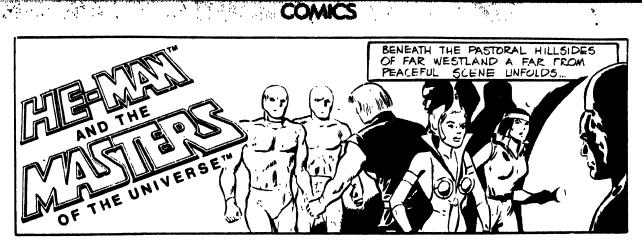
guised by being spelt backwards and given the peckwards and given the gested; e.g. gip for pig, yob for boy, alop for police.

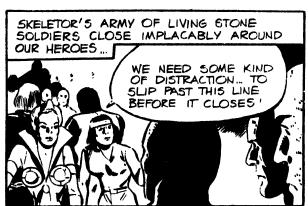
3) Elizabeth Barret Brownfing. The dog was called ing. The dog was called firsh.

4) The Kurdish community.
5) Francis Bacon.
5) Francis Bacon.
7) Six votes only. K Rama Krishna defeated his Krishna defeated his Notes only which is lowest for Minit Lok Sabha by six oftes only which is lowest for Minit Lok Sabha by six half and a section history.

\$\ \text{\$ form of largon or argot in which words are als-

1) Queen Elizabeth II.















ARGHE



11.70







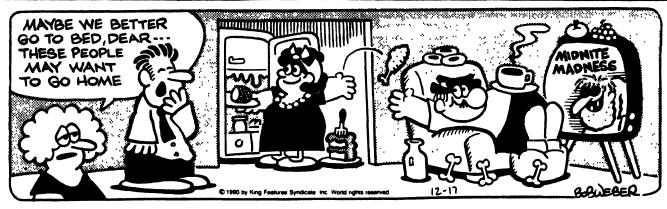












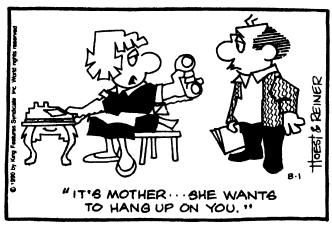


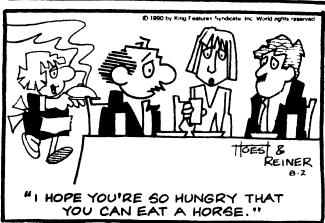


THELECKHORKS









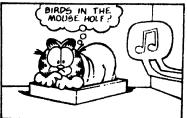
GAR-IELD By Jim Davis









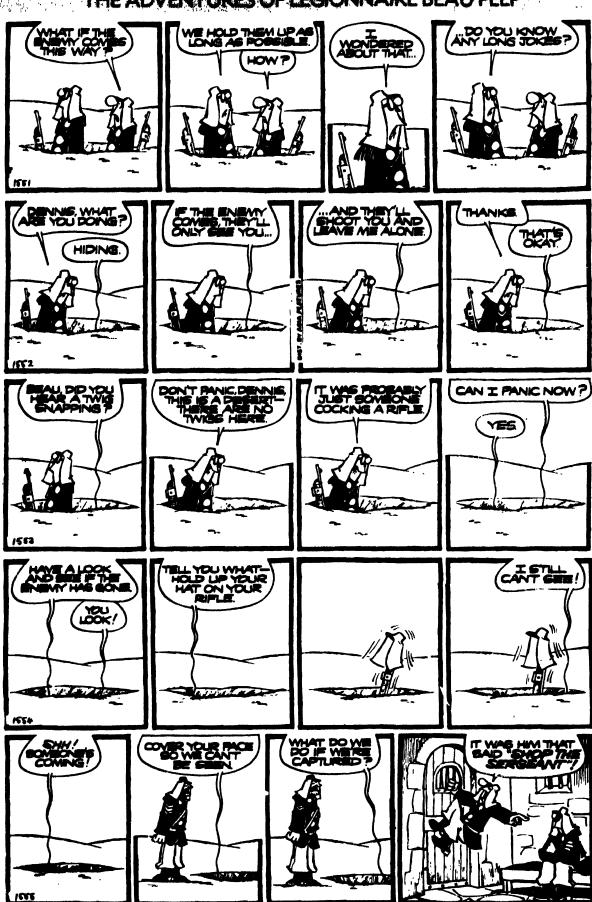








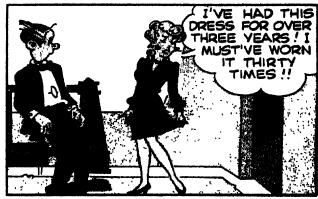
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP







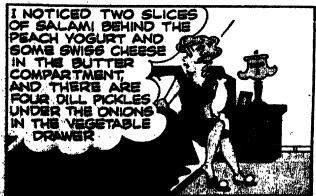


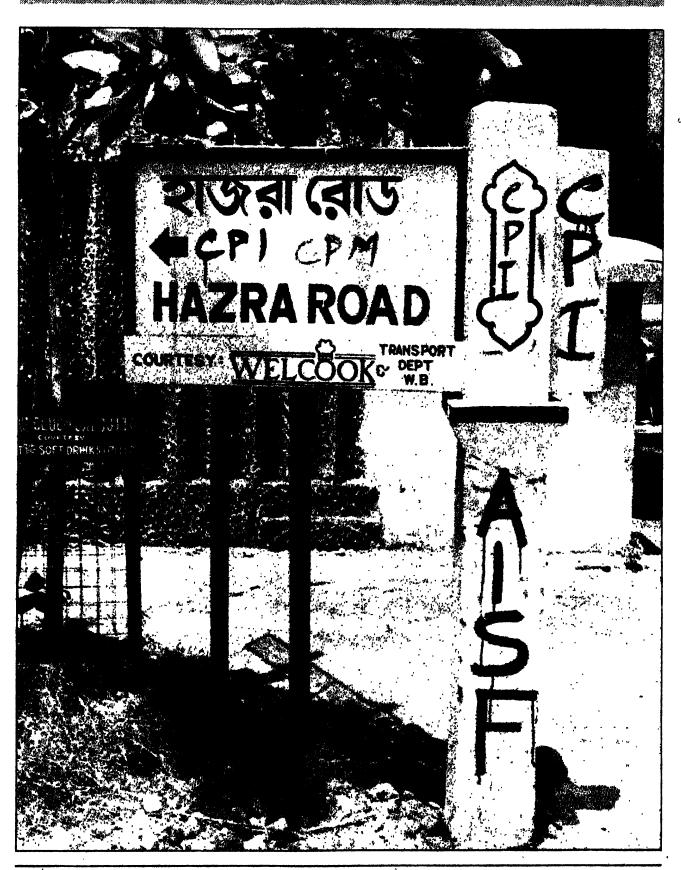












Need we write more? Photograph by SUNIL K. DUTT



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POST MORTEM

He Can, He Can't

It was a fine Sunday morning when I had breakfast with 'The Challenger', Mamata Banerjee (March 24). For a change, the meal tasted nice.

The next week I found myself studying 'The Art and Craft of Pranab Mukherjee' (March 31). And got a little bored.

To my surprise, after a gap of another week, I saw the revival of Siddhartha Shankar Ray ('Can He Do It?', April 14).

Please keep in mind that the same food served again and again can taste insipid even if otherwise delicious. Sabyasachi Chatterjee,

It is pathetic to see the Colour Magazine being turned into a political magazine. Your cover stories on politicians may be a feast to some politically interested readers, but not to general readers like me.

Debashis Sen. Calcutta

■ Yes, S.S. Ray can definitely do it. He has already launched a stiff challenge to this bunch of fake Marxists. The condi-

tion of West Bengal today is such that not even God can improve it in five years. The ruins of the past 14 years should be preserved so as to remind us how Ivoti Basu has plundered the state.

Ray's return to West Bengal is like Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after his 14 years' exile. Rakesh Verma,

Calcutta

■ Certainly not, he can't do it. Not with his tarnished image and record of 1972 killings, Emergency excesses of 1977 and his two glorious defeats in succession in the West Bengal Assembly elections.

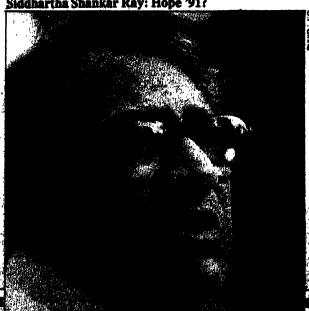
N. Bose, Madras

■ I think the decision to appoint S.S. Ray the PCC(I) chief was too sudden and too late. It was a clear gamble on Rajiv Gandhi's part to do that as the heat of the elections began to generate.

On the other hand, Ray has come back to West Bengal after a long period bringing with him memories of the Emergency. However, he has the ability and should not be treated as a pushover.

Sandeep Dasgupta, Rourkela

Siddhartha Shankar Ray: Hope '91?



Dumping S.S. Ray on West Bengal at the 11th hour is yet another folly of Rajiv Gandhi. West Bengal's electorate are conscious literates and not those with a herd mentality as in Bihar, UP, MP and so

The main cause of the waning popularity of the Congress(I) in West Bengal has been its high command's practice of imposing decisions and leaders on its dejected field workers.

Ray's long absence from West Bengal's political arena resulting in a lack of knowledge about the ability and competence of the present party workers is bound to frustrate the Congress(I)'s bid for a revival. Taj Singh Lakhmna, Chairman, Bihar Sick Industries Association, Patna

It's the man who matters most and it's experience that counts the most. With the reemergence of Siddhartha Shankar Ray, West Bengal politics seems to be poised for a big leap forward.

B.K. Gutgutia, Vidyasagar (Bihar)

■ One thing that we have to admit is that S.S. Ray is a honest man. There may be other allegations against him, but in honesty, he gets full marks.

He was probably the only chief minister who set up an inquiry commission (the Wanchu Commission) to probe the alleged corruption of his own ministers during his regime (1972-77).

There is no doubt that after Dr B.C. Roy, it was Ray who did something positive for West Bengal. Shovanial Bakshi, Calcutta

Thanks for the impressive cover story on S.S. Ray along with a Heritage item on his Beltola house. Sunti Banerjee,

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

19 MAY 1991



Politics is not just business now; it's showbusiness, too. Featuring some of the glittering giants in the fray this time.

Overworked Japanese have now turned relaxation into business. A report.

Wall writings have always held a pride of place in the Bengali's heart. A photofeature on this time's poll graffiti.

SECTIONS

8 Inner Eye

9 Heritage

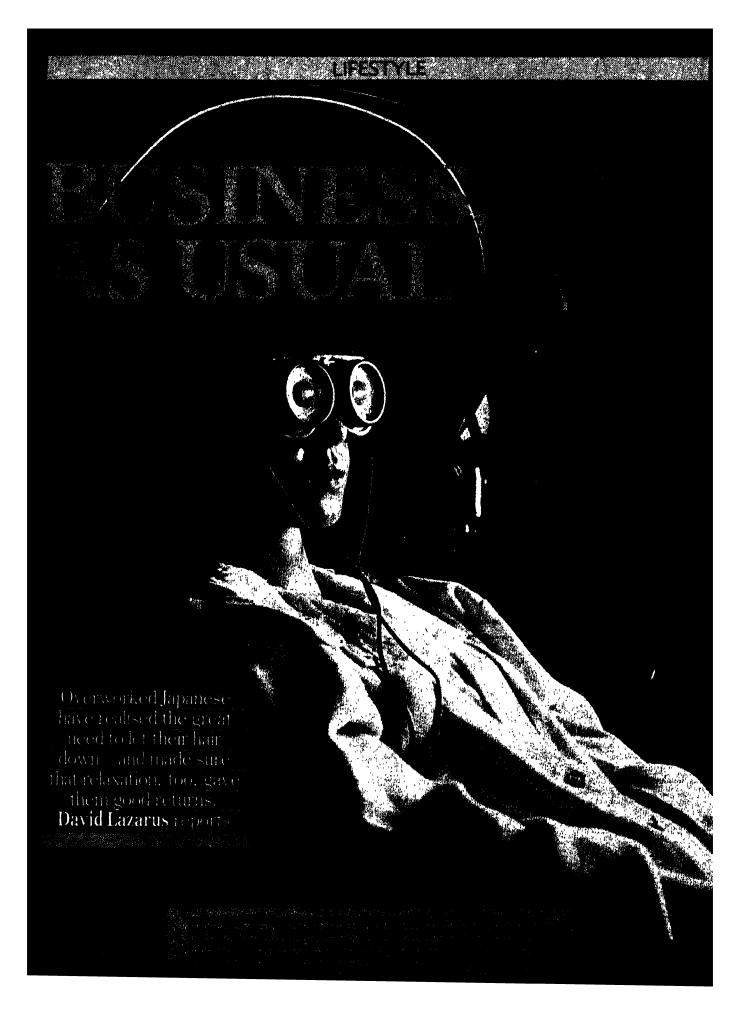
20 7 Days

Junior Whirl

Quiz

25 Comics

30 Candid Carnera



The trains in Tokyo stop running at midnight, it is said, only because Japanese workers need a mandatory time to start journeying home.

The average Japanese "salaryman" works 2,100 hours a year, compared to 1,900 hours for the American businessman and 1,600 for the German, according to Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry Japanese workers take much less time off every year than their American and German counterparts Sixday workweeks are routine.

So it is perhaps natural in a high tech country where money can buy virtually anything that an entire industry has emerged to sell one thing, relaxation. One com pany has even adapted methods that were developed to treat stressed out US Vietuam War veterans

"It is only within the last five years that people here have been talking about stress," says counsellor Masayoshi Hanami.

In recent months the Japanese have been debating the scientific validity of a new, disturbing phenomenon "death by overwork"

Hanami sees about 400 clients a month, mostly women, at his clinic in Tokyo's hectic (inza shopping district He offers a combination of biofeedback techniques and old-fashioned therapy.

"People come to talk," he says. But if such therapy doesn't help, Hanami places his clients in what he calls his "capsules" Beach capsule is essentially an armchair with a fancy hood, equipped with soft, New Age music interspersed with the sounds of breaking waves or chirping birds

Wires run from a person's fingertips and forehead to a computer, which monitors the pulse and the brain's alpha waves, electrical rhythms associated with a state of wakeful relaxation. A readout of stress levels is displayed on a computer screen throughout the session.

"People are like balloons," Hanami says. "If you put pressure on them, they explode. Japanese people now have a lot of stress from their way of life." Job cometition is extremely intense and commuting averages two to three hours every day.

Many younger, trendier Japanese are urning to the Brain Mind Gym in Tokyo's night-life district, Roppongi. 'Our customers enjoy their fast-paced ives, and they don't want the excitement o stop," says Takehiro Ohta, a company spokesman. "They just want to slow lown every now and then."

To do that the gym provides special toggles that flash in sync with pulsating electronic music. The concept was develoted about 20 years ago by an American esearcher to soothe the shattered ner res of Vietnam veterans.

Jammed subways are common in Tokyo, even when they are not crowded with these fans of the Seibu I ions baseball team. Overworked Japanese, for whom six-day workweeks are routine, commute an average of two to three hours a day. In this high-tech nation a new relaxation industry has emerged



For a mental workout gym members recline in soft leather chairs and cover themselves with blankets. The lights and music start throbbing slowly at first, then speed up to a dizzying velocity, forming patterns on the eyelids and creating an almost hypnotic state.

"The idea," Ohta says, "is that stress comes from an imbalance between the right and left sides of the brain. The lights and music balance the brain."

Most of the gym's 3,300 members are men. The average customer is in his late 20s and visits three times a week for half-hour sessions. "Tokyo moves very fast," Ohta says. "It's easy to lose yourself. This machine helps you find yourself. There is a lot of pressure now from technology. It is better to solve these problems with machines"

Those who prefer a more traditional way of relaxing may drop by Sleep Culture Gallery Alpha, owned by a bed-linen manufacturer "We try to promote a deeper understanding of sleep," says spokeswoman Kazue Ishii. "We feel people should sleep more."

Ishii, 23, says the gallery attracts about 50 visitors a day, most of whom complain they are overworked and cannot sleep

well. They seek techniques for improving their few hours of slumber.

The average Japanese worker, according to government statistics, gets between six and seven hours of sleep on weeknights. This stems from a time-honoured practice of working from 9 am to about 8 pm every day, and then spending the evening eating and drinking with colleagues.

Ishii says she recommends breathing exercises and stretching before sleeping. She also suggests the best temperature for bath water and the type of music to play. If these techniques do not work, the company has a relaxation room- a plush, soft, soundproof nest without corners. Visitors lie back in comfortable chairs and watch images of mountains and flowers on a movie screen. They listen to electronic music that Ishii says has been scientifically engineered to stir up alpha waves.

Government analysts and accountants can say what they will about the reasons behind the slower economic growth predicted in Japan this year. One cause may be that Japanese workers are just plain pooped

(National Geographic News Service)

It was Siddhartha Shankar Ray, of all people, who aroused my interest in politics in the mid-Fifties. Before that politics had a very low priority in our scheme of things. That year, Ray had left Dr B.C. Roy's Cabinet in a huff and resigned his Assembly seat. In no time he was, however, returned to the Assembly as an Independent, backed by the Left parties.

All the second of the second o

Since then Ray has left and joined the Congress a number of times and, this year, at the ripe old age of 72, he is leading the Congress(I) against the CPI(M) in the ensuing elections. I still remember Ray's fulminations to newsmen about one of his senior colleagues, and that newspaper report first created my interest in politics and elections.

I have seen quite a few elections as an agent of a political party, as a presiding officer and also as a newsman. All said and done, there is nothing to be cynical about our election process although there are quite a few loopholes in the system which, if properly plugged, would guarantee a free and fair poll.

I was under 21 when I was first assigned an election agent's job. Naturally I was not vet a voter. But that did not prevent me from representing the party I supported those days, inside the polling booth. Some of the voters who frequented the booth more than once were not challenged at all. However, one young fellow who was perhaps not properly briefed by his elders, blurted out at the slightest objection that he had been sent inside by the dadas. When probed further, the poor fellow broke down.

Those days the Left parties were divided into myriads of factions which naturally helped the Congress to win the elections in a big way. I still remember the counting day after the 1957 Assembly polls when Dr B.C. Roy won from the central Calcutta constituency only by a narrow margin and hat, through postal ballots. I hose days nobody talked of scientific rigging" or "booth apturing". But a prominent

GETTING THE BOOTH

central Calcutta Congress leader (who is now over 80) had developed a novel method to put the opposition parties in difficulty. This gentleman would not hesitate to use police vans to carry opposition cadres and poll material to faroff places like Diamond Harbour or Kakdwip on the eve of elections. The measure was surefire since without voters' lists and party workers the opposition candidates found it difficult to function on the polling day. The unique method, however, had one snag-in one of the byelections the opposition parties followed it, putting the Congress in an un-

Tarun Ganguly on how the concept of scientific rigging has changed over the years

savoury situation.

In the 1972 Assembly elections as well as in the post-Emergency 1977 polls, both the Congress and the Opposition devised various measures to win. In fact, in the 1972 polls, the CPI(M) had no other choice but to withdraw its candidates as the Congress had outwitted it in booth-capturing and scientific rigging. Both the camps have no business shouting from the rooftops now in support of free and fair elections since, given the slightest chance, both sides would spare no pains to rig the elections.

In the 1962 elections, which were spread over three days, I had the first opportunity to be a presiding officer in Purulia district which had just then merged with West Bengal from Bihar. The returning officer, who also happened to



be the district magistrate, had briefed us that no matter how the elections were conducted, the ballot boxes should be brought to the "striking re-serves" before nightfall. He was perhaps scared about the poor roads and the nonexistent power supply in the district those days. The elections, however, had no surprises. People entered the booths in rows. Thereafter, the village folk who had traversed 10 to 15 miles to cast their votes, started openly discussing the prospects of the candidates. As the presiding officer I tried my best to convince them that it was a 'secret' ballot. But they just did not pay any heed and even sought my advice about the 'chance' of each candidate.

Since I was expected to re-

I was under 21 when I was first assigned an election agent's job.
Naturally I was not yet a voter. But that did not prevent me from representing the party I supported those days, inside the polling booth

turn to the striking reserve with ballot boxes intact and in time, I implored the voters to speed up the process, but that apparently did not cut much



ice. Quite a few of them came forward asking me to stamp the symbol of the most deserving candidate. I will not go into further details of the voting on that day as it would be against election norms and fundamental rights. But over the last 30 years or so, voters have become more alert about their power to change governments. No amount of coaxing or cajoling can change the minds of the voters nowadays. Again, booth-capturing and

more difficult.

In fact, elections are increasingly becoming free of outside influences. About a decade ago it was nothing unusual for a voter to avail the transport provided by the candidate to go to the booth. This is unthinkable today.

scientific rigging have become

Even during the last elections the chief minister or his Cabinet colleagues would use official conveyance for election purposes. That is no longer possible now. Before the 1977 elections, Bhola Sen, the then CMDA minister, had come to be known as the minister for laying foundation stones. Laying of foundation stones after the announcement of the poll date is now considered an electoral offence, which may even disqualify a candidate.

Gone are the days when a cup of tea, a glass of green coconut water or a ride to the polling booth in the candidate's car were considered privileges for voters on election day. Now candidates like Ant Panja of the Congress(I) have their list of voters in computers.

The time is not far off when poll campaigns would be taboo and voters would cast their votes merely by pressing a button. Wall posters, which used to carry cartoons and parodies for or against candidates, have already been replaced by vituperative attacks on contending parties and it seems that there is no scope left for humour in elections. Prices, trade gaps, foreign exchange crisis are the issues now dominating the roadside walls. Elections, though more frequent nowadays, appear to have become serious business.

BARTER BANK

- Study material: I. would like to exchange my Brilliant's NBBS '88 notes for anything of corresponding value. Contact Swarnendu Mukherjee, C/o P.K. Mukherjee, BL/29 Salt Lake, Calcutta-700 091.
- Colour magazine: I wish to exchange 3(0) issues of The Telegraph Colour Magazine for a single screen pocket video game or anything else of corresponding value. Write to Nabarun Basak, 1/1 Rameshwar Shaw Road, Calcutta-700 074.
- Study materials: I offer a set of Agarwal Classes '89 and Brilliant's Elite course '90 with solutions for anything of corresponding value. Contact Rinkoo Basak, P-112/1 Block-A Bangur Avenue, Calcutta-700 055.
- Record-player: I would like to exchange a record-player (without sound box) and a few old records for a two-inone (20 watts) or a ear stereo or an amplispeaker. Write to Rajat Mukherjee, 33/2A Murari Pukur Road, Calcutta-700 0o7.
- Novels: I wish to exchange two novels by Sidney Sheldon, 10 Enid Blyton books and a Spanish guitar all in good condition for anything of corresponding value. Contact Mona Majumdar, 12A Colonel Biswas Road, Calcutta-700 019.
- Study materials: I would like to exchange Brilliant tutorials' complete set of MBBS '89 study materials for anything of corresponding value. Write to Boney Brar, C/0 Lt Col. R.S.S. Brar, Q. No, P82/3 O.T. Road, Balasore-756 001.
- Lighting equipment: I offer a disco lighting equipment including a mirror ball with spotlights and a light chaser system for anything of corresponding value. Contact Sumir Verma, Flat 5A, 64 Sarat Bose Road, Calcutta-700 025.
- Bicycle and taperecorder: I wish to exchange one Japanese make taperecorder and a bicycle for children for anything of corresponding value. Contact K.P. Bhattacharya, 132 Ramlal Agarwalla Lane, Sinthimore, Calcutta-700 050.

RIES

March 21---April 20 Buying, selling, shopping, trading and brokerage will the important directions of the month. This week you will definitely gain in deals, tenders and contracts. Romance, finance and travel will make a trio. Contacts hold the key now, and that includes travel. Your throat, eyes, tongue, head, gout and overindulgence may cause trouble. An addition to the family is likely.

> **AURUS** April 21-May 20 The main trends of

the week are recognition, fun and games. Romance promises fulfilment. You will win awards, rewards, riches and recognition. Travel only if you are offered a lucrative proposition or want to move house/office. This week the Arien ailments also apply to you. At home, a reshuf-fie is probable.

EMINI

May 21-June 20 Expenses, secret work, liaison, ties and

deals characterise the week. There are good chances of augmenting your income. You will organise family get-togethers. In romance, Mercury titillates you, but be secretive and clever about it. Money will flow in within a fortnight or so, but learn to leash in expenses and costs. Regarding health, you and kids should be a wee bit careful.

ANCER

June 21-July 20 A run of luck or good fortune, whatever you are, is foretold. Therefore, have he courage and confidence to no for your shots. In finance, promotion, perks, business lun-cheons, socialising, ventures and new outlets in business/prossion are promised. Romance shows excellent going around May 21. Expect visitors and foregners to drop in. The weekend inds you completely occupied in

E0 July 21---August 21 The moon's first quaras well as professional interests and, therefore, you will have to hurry your strokes, think fast, be always on your feet and come to major decisions. You may have to wait for another week for good money and a better lifestyle. Fuse joy with work. Your health

















IBRA

Sept 23-Oct 22 Favours will be granted and much accomplished this week. Keep cheerful and win others to your way of life. The next week will be even better in finance, you will find that others are cooperative and that means more money, promotion and perks. A trip or commuting or correspondence shows the way to love and fun.

CORPIO

Oct 23-- Nov 22 Health, funds, travel and a striving for

perfection characterise the week. Good work will bring com-

mensurate rewards. Loans and investments are more than possible. Romance will involve wild passion and outrageous flings. Health may not remain in shape as you will be hypersensifrom the control of t romance, outings, socialising and childbirth are the happy events of the year.

> **AGITTARIUS** Nov 23-Dec 20

The week's main trends are contacts, communication, legal battles.

overseas connections and use of special skills and knowhow Money will pour in. In romance, a heart or two can be slain. Health may include a snag which must be expected and overcome in time. Some trouble could brew on the home front.

APRICORN

Dec 21-Jan 19 The accent will be on

job, loans, funding, buying, selling, shopping, leas-ing, hypothecation, pets, pro-jects and subordinates. Finance is also an important direction. Flirtations may not hurt. Health may pose a slight problem as relaxation and play may not be in the right measure and dose. Do not travel unless it is absolutely necessary. Your activities include the home and family, and this direction has picked up from last month.

QUARIUS

Jan 20--Feb 18 Marriage, engagement, association,

alliance, journey, collaboration and research are the outstanding characteristics of the week. Finance promises contracts, tenders and new assignments. In romance, your heart will do a hop-skip-jump or two! Your health improves Scholars, teachers and businessmen could gain from a trip.

> ISCES Feb 19-March 20

The week's highlights are changes on the work and domestic fronts. Money comes first, the rest will automatically follow. Your work

will be rewarded in cash or kind. Health will be slightly under the weather. Renovation and beautification at home are predicted The home front will need changes in decor and utility items as well.

BIRTHDAYS

shows a slight improvement.

Restlessness and work could

need a journey. Kids, research,

penses, strong attachments,

focus, concentration on work

and future prospects, and a

touch of romance too. Hard work, good objectives and strong

contacts will add up to money.

There will be enough romance to

stop you from complaining.

Travel only if it is inevitable. Ex-

cept for a slight nervous tension

or stomach problem, there is no-

thing to worry about your health.

August 22-Sept 22

The main trends of

the week are ex-

IRGO

studies keep you busy.

May 19

Moon conjunction Jupiter, square Saturn: Health of elders and family members could upset you. Those desiring changes in property, office, vehicles, house and home succeed in bringing them about. Be tectful, understanding and patient.

May 20

Moon's first quarter: Changes in wound was quarier: Changes in your life-pattern and style are simost certain and you may have to adept though that may not be very easy. Take a long-range view of men, matters and section.

May 21

Moon trime Uranus: Romance wind in the Uranua: Homande and shetter prospects in your work are foretold. You should be that to eitercome any psychological function and phobias which, seem to thwart you. Those in the prospection of sales, cosmetics, adornment, decoration, accountancy and statistics make the most of this The second secon May 22

Moon sextile Mars-Pluto: Fuse caution with aggression as you, are likely to be prejudiced and may be carried away by your own logic. Remember, others too have a right to their point of

May 23

Moon trine Sun: The goodles of life—love, laughter and luck—are certainly yours. Research, journey, children, hobbles, creative pursuits and a wish fulfilment complete the scene.

May 24

Moon square Uranus Napturies: Despite the tension equaed at home and work fronts; you should manage to table your own. Nothing is half as been as it seems.

May 25

Moon square Mars. Given patience and sweet reasonableness, much can be achieved. Job and professional matters are highlighted in this planetary placinğ,

11" Judio (11")

household.



HERITAGE D Rathin Mitra

SISTER NIVEDITA (1867-1911)



Pater Mine 10

"If one class of the people derive all their mental sustenance from one set of ideas and the bulk of the population from something else, then unity cannot be effective. But if all people talk the same language, learn to express themselves in the same way, feed their realisation upon the same ideas, and all are trained and equipped to respond in the same way to the same forces, then our unity will stand selfdemonstrated, unflinching. These were the epoch-making words of Sister Nivedita.

Born Margaret Elizabeth Noble in Ireland on October 28, 1867, Sister Nivedita took up a teaching job in London. Her father, Rev. S.R. Noble, was a priest. In 1898, she came in contact with Swami Vivekananda and took lessons from him in Hindu philosophy. The same year she came to India and stayed at Belur. She travelled all over India, specially the pilgrim places, and embraced Hinduism. Thereafter she was christened Nivedita

Sister Nivedita's benevolent activities are known far and wide. During the great epidemic in Calcutta, she stood out with her relief works. She travelled to the US and the UK with Swami Vivekananda to raise funds for various philanthropic schemes. On her return, she settled at Bagbazar (in north Calcutta) and started a girls' school which is at present among the better-known city institutions and goes by her name. Her services and sacrifices during the 1906 devastating floods at Barisal (now in Bangladesh) will be remembered for long.

Sister Nivedita wrote a number of books, of which Cradle Tales of Hinduism, Kali the Mother, Studies From an Eastern Home, Web of Indian Life, Shiva and Buddha, The Master as I Saw Him, An Indian Study of Love and Death, Religion and Dharma, Notes on Some Wanderings with Swami Vivekananda, Civic and National Ideals and Hints on National Education in India deserve mention.

In October 1911, Lady Abala Bose and Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose invited her to spend some time with them at Darjeeling. They stayed at the house (sketched above), Roy Villa, at North Point (Darjeeling) where Sister Nivedita came down with an attack of acute dysentry. Here she breathed her last on October 13, 1911 at 7 am

ed flags. Tricolours. Orange flags. More red flags. Tricolours. More orange flags. Election '91 finds everybody who is anybody throwing his hat into the arena. A few names add to the glitter.

Deepika. In the fray for the Baroda Lok Sabha seat. Deepika Chikhalia of Sun Meri Laila fame, of Cheekh, Patthar, Asha O Bhalobasa fame, of 'Sita' fame. Fighting for the rights of Ram, fighting on the side of 'Ravana'. Fighting for the BJP.

Born of Gujarati parents, there was a time in her life when Deepika was just another filmstar who made her debut in the Kundan Shah film, Sun Meri Laila, much against the wishes of a conservative mother. Doing violent rape scenes in Raat Ke Andhere Mein and Izzat Abroo. Projecting a freewheeling image. That was until Ramanand Sagar and the Ramayan turned hers into an all-over-India-familiar face. Thereafter, for better or for worse, the 'Sita' image stuck. Whether it was an ad for a particular brand of hair oil or even the role of Tipu Sultan's mother. viewers were almost always bound to say, "Look, there's Sita"—the very same that wept through most of the Sunday mornings in 1987-88. This is something we would need to remember—the fact that in the minds of the people, it is Sita and not Deepika who is contesting the elections on a BJP ticket.

Interestingly, the objections raised against Ramanand Sagar's version of the epic then are more or less similar to those raised now against the BJP as a political party; that it projected Hindi fundamentalism instead of secularism, that it provoked 'anti-minority' feelings. Answering the charges against the serial, Deepika had said that she believed in the eternal values that Ramayan stood for—brotherhood of man and the need for righteousness—values relevant in the modern crisis of civilisation. That the character of Sita helped her believe in self-respect and conviction.

About the ideology of the BJP, unfortunately, Deepika is not as sure, having joined the party merely at the suggestion of Arvindbhai Trivedi ('Ravana'), a family friend. But her campaign through Baroda found Deepika trying her best to mouth the speeches of L.K. Advani and lashing out at the more-than-equal status of the Muslims in a so-called secular country. And the Muslims form 22 per cent of the Baroda electorate.

The sitting Janata Dal MP from Baroda, Prakash Koko Bramhbhatt, does not stand much of a chance this time, having curried general disfavour with the remark that he could not be bothered about "Brahmins, Patels and Baniyas". The real struggle, then, will be between the Congress(I) candidate, Ranjitsinh Gaekwad (of royal

descent), and the BJP nominee, the "soft and petite" (according to her own assessment) Sita.

So long as the electorate got carried away by the epic-heroine-worship wave and did not worry much about whether the face behind the mythical facade could meet the down-to-earth demands of a political career, Sita's rath should have a fair run. If not, the bowels of earth are always an open alternative.

Sadhus from all over the country had gathered at Hardwar in 1989 to finalise the date, time and place of construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. It was a very significant meeting of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) as a decision would have had its impact on the then impending general elections. After two days of hectic discussions the sadhus had finalised their

newly-acquired image. A Bombay glossy described her as a "sexy sanyasın", and since then she has been associated more and more with this remark than anything else. She visited Ayodhya to participate in the kar seva, organised by the VHP. Uma Bharati led a huge column of VHP and Bajrang Dal volunteers. She was arrested and removed in a police jeep near the disputed site. After this when the police opened fire, several volunteers were killed.

What became famous was not her militant speeches at the site but the dramatic manner in which she managed to enter into Ayodhya. She shaved off her head and drove into Ayodhya in a car after bluffing the policemen on the way that she was a distressed soul who had recently lost a family member. The newspapers de-

THENEW

The mundane world of politics has been given a huge dose of glamour this time. Featuring some of the leading lights...

resolution. The discussions on the resolutions were petering out and the sadhus had started dispersing as there was a general lack of interest among them. An announcement was made that Uma Bharati would address them. And there was a flurry of activity. The sadhus draped in various hues of saffron and armed with kamandals returned to listen to the lady in saffron. She went on and on, delivering a hardhitting speech criticising the government, the "pseudo secularist" and so on and so forth, and the sadhus were all impressed. They were almost drooling over her. Aggressive, modern and flirtatious, the Sadhvi" has always attracted a responsive audience.

The BJP MP from Khajuraho has acquired an image which is quite contrary to the common tenets and beliets of how a sanyasin is populary perceived. The woman from Khajuraho who had won hearts of the people in her native town by her devotional discourses two years ago does not enjoy the same respect and reverence now after her foray into politics. She is finding it difficult to live down the

scribed her as the Persis Khambatta of politics. But she was upset that she had to lose her hair and she went about bemoaning to newsmen about her once splendid tresses.

There is not much to say about her politics barring her blind support to the Ramjanmabhoomi agitation. But because of her outspokenness and refusal to follow structured policies she has been at loggerheads with her partymen. She soon became a critic of Madhya Pradesh chief minister Sunder Lal Patwa, and emerged as one of the leading dissidents in the party. In the party forums she openly spoke against the chief minister. Patwa was so furious that he recommended to the BJP high command that she should be denied a ticket in the forthcoming general elections.

Krishna (and wife Vijayanirmala): The



What about the past of the sanyasin? According to her own admission she became a sanyasin at 16, donned saffron clothes and started giving discourses, mostly devoted to Lord Krishna. Her Congress(I) rivals who have seen her transformation in the temple town say that she was like any other normal girl who went around the town in hip-hugging blue jeans. Her parents had even started looking for a match for her but gave up after they realised her spiritual and political ambitions. However, her image has started taking a downward swing after she became an MP. There are complaints that she is very short-tempered, abusive and has even hit men who did not follow her diktat. There is a famous tale in her hometown about how she hit an officer. Her own defence is that such tactics become important to get

dhara, and this upset her as she does not want her family to be bandied about in such a sundry fashion. Madhavrao Scindia, the only son of the Scindias, has a very problematic relationship with his mother. However, he enjoys quite a good relationship with his sister although she is also on the opposite side of the political spectrum. Vasundhara Raje, who grew up in a political family, has her own political views and she has not entered politics merely because she was influenced by her mother, Vijayaraje Scindia.

Vasundhara is known to hold liberal views on religion although she is a member of the BJP and has won the Jhalawar seat partly because of the impact of the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid controversy. Typical of the families of the erstwhile rulers, Vasundhara Raje has two lives, one

and therefore she is likely to nomp home comfortably for a second term.

What has been her contribution to the party? The BJP has been trying to use her for exploiting the Maharaja connections. When Lokendra Singh, MP from Damoh constituency in Madhya Pradesh, resigned and moved to the Congress(I), she tried to get her back into the party. She held a long chat with him outside the BJP headquraters in a final bid to bring him back to the BJP. But Singh, as it often happens with the royal lineage, stuck to his decision as he felt cheated by the party. Interestingly, he was weaned away from the BJP into the Congress(I) by none other than Madhavrao Scindia.

The BJP, to keep her in good humour, has made her a member of its national executive. During the BJP executive ses-

POLITICIANS

work done. The electorate of Uma Bharati is unhappy that she could not organise any developmental activities for them although she has become a national figure. By Bharati's own admission things are not easy going for her this time. But her supporters feel that she will be able to pull off a victory at the end as she has the important backwards vote on her side, she herself being a Lodhi.

One person who loves to hate Uma Bharati is her own partywoman, Vasundhara Raje Scindia. The BJP MP from Jhalawar in Rajasthan is unhappy that Bharati has let loose her tongue, specially pertaining to matters relating to her family. Uma Bharati is supposed to have made some cracks about the sex appeal of Madhavrao Scindia, brother of Vasun-

his wife's heart was through the soapbox



to suit the image of the Maharani which would go down well with the rural electorate and the second, of a jet-setter where she would have frequent vacations abroad. She recently projected this humble village into the limelight when she asked the women from Rajasthan to come to Delhi in large numbers to attend the April 4 rally of the VHP. The orthodox Rajasthanı women expressed their inability to do so and said that they had never gone out of their villages. Vasundhara Raje immediately asked the men to join and requested the women to perform the puja of Lord Rama in their homes. This alone would be a sufficient contribution, she is understood to have told them.

Again, as a jet-set woman in her personal life, her friendship cuts across all barriers. She is known to have been in the close circle of friends of Sonia Gandhi. Her other friends include Maneka Gandhi, Biju Patnaik's son and Dumpy Ahmed. Her friendship with Dumpy had set several tongues wagging, but that is past now. Vasundhara Raje, keeping to royal traditions, was married into the family of the Maharaja of Dholpur, which again forms a part of the erstwhile Scindia state. Being independent minded, she contested the Dholpur Assembly seat despite stiff opposition from her husband and motherin-law who supported the Congress(I). She won the seat on the basis of sympathetic support from the people and subsequently moved to the Jhalawar parliamentary seat, and fought and won with a BJP ticket in 1989. The seat falls under the influence of the former Scindia state

sion in Jaipur. Vasundhara Raje with her shampooed hair and ever-immaculate dress graced the occasion. According to a BJP watcher, her most visible contribution was draping herself in a saffron sari with green borders.

C. Krishna was no match for the hysterical and rhetorical talent of NTR, but beat the aged hero when it came to prancing around the trees with tinsel damsels. The personal feud between them drew the batlleline in the film industry from the studios to distributors to exhibitors and even to heroines. NTR and Krishna also competed with each other in producing films.

Krishna earned the Eluru ticket through his political films against NTR and the TDP regime for seven years. He was also one of the victims of NTR who launched proceedings against Krishna's Padmalaya Studio. Krishna had campaigned earlier for the Congress and was introduced to politics by his actress wife Vijayanirmala. Krishna, however, was reluctant to contest from the same constituency in 1991 and shifted to the Guntur segment which was his hometown. The death of his benefactor (a former minister) in Eluru and initial outbursts of fans against him were the reasons behind his reluctance, but now he has started his campaign in earnest. While his TDP rival has denied him any walls of the Eluru town for campaigning, Krishna has taken over the town's major streets by opting to paint the party symbol at all major junctions.

The rebel star of Telugu cinema, U. Krishnam Raju, is the latest entry in

the political arena in the state. Despite the polarisation in the trade, Krishnam Raju had stayed aloof for nearly five years of the TDP regime and suffered too. His choice was made on the proposals of the local Rajus (Kshatriyas) to outsmart the TDP candidate by another Raju.

Unlike his neighbour in Eluru, Krishnam Raju never crossed swords with NTR. He remained a passive spectator though he promoted NTR films in an effort to fill the void created by the exit of NTR from cinema. Perhaps his depiction of a righteous village headman in *Dharmatma* had earned him a popular image. He was a choice of the chief minister, Janardan Reddy. Another plus point may have been his cornering the original script of *Brahmarshi Vishwamitra*, written by a veteran scriptwriter Kondaveti Venkatakavi, a regular for NTR. Lack of a properly researched script is also said to have hindered NTR's directional talents.

The Bharata Natyam exponent, Korada Narasimha Rao is the BJP find to face the filmstar Krishna from the Eluru segment. K. Narasimha Rao is perhaps the only Padmashri in the electoral race. Besides being a dancer, he had also introduced folk forms to propagate welfare schemes. He is also a Kuchipudi exponent and said that he has entered the election fray because of his belief in Rama, for whose sake the BJP had launched an agitation on a nationwide scale. He is also a member of the Rashtriva Swayamsevak Sangh. Fifty-five-year-old Narasimha Rao is in electoral fray only on representative form as he has no inclination to abandon his profession and take up full-time politics. "I am only obliging some friends," he says.

Jamuna Ramana Rao is perhaps the only woman who has said 'No' to the evergreen superstar of the region, NTR! As a result NTR and the male chauvinist celluloid world nicknamed her the pogarubothu (arrogant kid). But they could not do away with the professional artiste in Jamuna as none could fill the role of Satyabhama in the mythologicals of NTR, despite her tangential hits at the demi-god of the film world.

Jamuna's entry into active politics and her candidature from Rajahmundry was mostly to reconsolidate the Congress(I) votes from the clutches of the Chowdharys in the segment who were predominantly TDP. As a brahmin girl who had married a vyshya she had ready acceptance in the historic town of Raja Raja Chola who patronised inter-caste marriages in this country even before Raja Rammohun Roy. She won the seat with a margin of 50,000 votes in 1989 but her main problem was to convince the Congress(I) MLAs in her segment who were mostly veterans.



U. Krishnam Raju: Succumbing to the spell of politics

Although a novice in active politics. Jamuna took up several populist causes for which she even received all party support. Construction of public lavatories for women in villages was one such. Besides being an ardent Rajiv Gandhi camp follower, Jamuna had also kept cordial relations at the state level which earned her good dividends. In 1989, Jamuna also became a source of counter campaigns against NTR for the Congress(I). The film actress and her troupe of professional artistes repeatedly donned grease paint to enact a scene from the mythological Sri Krishna Tulabharam in which, as Satyabhama, Jamuna gets an opportunity to keep her right foot on NTR's head, spurning his advances. She is also known for her tangential remarks on NTR.

The Congress(I) has a problem counting sure seats in Bombay where votes are steadily getting painted the colour saffron. The only ray of hope in a city where the BJP-Shiv Sena is riding supreme is Bombay North-West where the party's film-star-turned-politician, **Sunil Dutt** hopes to make his third tryst with Parliament.

The Congress(I) hopes his good image will bag them one more seat in Maharashtra, but is now not sounding as confident as before. The reason: the latest entrants in the fray here. The Shiv Sena has fielded its fiery former mayor, Dr Ramesh Prabhoo, and the Janata Dal Dr Anees Syed, professor of history and wife of the Current editor, Ayub Syed.

Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray who launhced his party's campaign here last month took off on Sunil Dutt's latest film, Yeh Aag Kab Bujhegi?. Ackowledging him as a great star, Thackeray warned that the aag would soon be extinguished; his candidate from Bombay North-West Dr J.T. Vyas would do the needful, he added. But even the Shiv Sena realised they would need a tougher firefighter to put out the Congress(I)'s burning hope in Bombay. Thus came the last minute change in Dr Ramesh Prabhoo who stepped in wearing

the mantle of Hindutva. Dr Prabhoo's election from Vile Parle, an Assembly segment in this constituency, was set aside by the Bombay High Court for a campaign on communal grounds. But he won again from the constituency by a 12,000 vote margin last February, and is now challenging Dutt to Parliament.

Addressing one of her first big election meetings, Dr Anees Syed sarcastically called her opponent "mahaan neta". Some in the Congress(I) fear that she will chip away the mahaan neta's votes in the Muslim (about 30 per cent), Christian (less than 20 per cent) and Dalit segments of the electorate and let the staunchly Hindu Dr Prabhoo sail home.

But evidently the filmstar is not taking any chances, and as the campaign kicks off, his banners and vehicles are all over town. Says a voter in his constituency, "We don't see the others anywhere, but Dutt Saheb is everywhere. I am sure people here will not choose Prabhoo, he is too much of a militant Hindu."

From the affluent star-studded Juhu and Pali Hill to the *jhuggies* of Jogeshwari, Dutt's constituency is a mix of glamour and hunger. While some of the filmy fraternity are out campaigning for or representing other parties, most of tinsel town which falls in his constituency is rooting for Dutt.

Sunil Dutt's opponents have accused him of not opening his mouth in Parliament. One of them who stood against him last time, Arun Sathe of the BJP, said, "One does not necessarily serve the people by opening one's mouth. Speaking in the House should also be result-oriented."

For those who say he hasn't, Dutt says he has—and there's a long list beginning with being the only MP to fight for rail concessions for the disabled, organising assistance from the chief minister's funds for riot victims in Jogeshwari and so on. His contributions to aid the disabled and cancer victims need not be repeated and this goes for his Padyatra for peace, too.

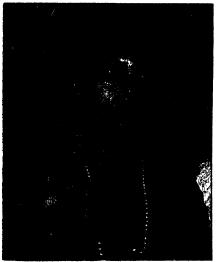
Unlike some of his star compatriots, Sunil Dutt has not been marking time for a party ticket. During the last election he was reluctant to contest as his daughter-in-law, Richa (filmstar Sunjay Dut's wife), was critically ill and being treated in the US. Between visits to the US, the star's campaign just rolled on, mostly without him. And he was back in Parliament even then, polling 3.16 lakh votes with a margin of over 70,000 votes over his nearest (BJP) rival.

But this time as he gets set to face the over 1.3 million audience in his constituency, for the third time, the going is a mite tougher than before. If his film on dowry deaths can spread to the Mandal and Mandir fires, aiding his campaign, it could also play the reverse role as the Shiv Sena chief would like to see it.

Perhaps the only role left for Tiger Mansur Ali Khan, the former Nawab of Pataudi, was that of a fullfledged politician. And by becoming the Congress(I) candidate from Bhopal—incidentally his birthplace—he has finally slipped into that role, too. Tiger, of course, had a brief innings in politics two decades ago when, largely because of annoyance over the abolition of the privy purse, he fought the 1971 elections on a Vishal Harayana Party ticket.

That could be dubbed a flirtation. And, as with most flirtations, it remained just that. Actually, it was a disaster. Tiger forfeited even his deposit. If ever there was an unhappy debut, that was it. "I learnt a lot in that one month of campaigning," Pataudi said later. Those lessons should be to his advantage this time.

Tiger, who got his '50' last January, has had a vibrant, indeed extraordinary innings; the suave and regal Tiger has never really been away from the limelight. His hugely successful ad campaigns in recent times have only sharpened his high-profile image.



Vasundhara Raje: Adding the glitter





Sunil Dutt: Yeh aag kab bujhegi?

Even though the BJP holds the Bhopal parliamentary seat, and Tiger's principal adversary is a former chief secretary of the state, Tiger's stature and his strong maternal roots with Madhya Pradesh's capital, could see him come out on top. The presence of his actress-begum, Sharmila Tagore, still a celebrity in her own right, on the campaign trail can only add lustre to Tiger's appeal. And that should lead to an upswing in both curiosity and votes.

While Tiger feels the Congress(I) is the vehicle to discharge "responsibilities which have thus far perhaps been avoided", the party, on the other hand, hopes to cash in on Tiger's glittering persona.

During the course of his 46 Tests, Tiger left an indelible mark on Indian cricket, especially on the captaincy front. He could leave a similar imprint in politics. Most agree that there has always been a touch of class to Tiger's actions. Will it now extend to Parliament, too?

Lever since she discarded the DCM towel for the bridal finery of the Gandhi family, Maneka Gandhi has always been in the news. But the brash young girl who revelled in exposing the exploits of political adversaries in her magazine, Surya (remember the Suresh RamSushma Choudhury pictures?) during the Janata regime, has come a long way.

The girl who became a mother and



Uma Gajapathi Raju: Stunning princess of politics

widow in quick succession hit the headlines once again when she walked out of her mother-in-law's house which happened to be the most important address in the country. She took on Rajiv Gandhi in Amethi in 1984 and received a drubbing and thereafter slipped into the shadows. And it is in these shadows, provided by creative writing for children, genuine concern for all issues environmental and an obsessive love for animals, that Maneka grew and matured into the green lady she is today.

Maneka is not exactly a glamour girl of Parliament in the sense Uma Gajapathi Raju, Jayanthi Natarajan or Vyjayanthimala Bali are. She wears no makeup, carelessly wraps herself in simple cotton sarees, often repeats the same pair of salwar

kameez more than once a week and couldn't be bothered with being "charming" to her fellow politicians. In the 16 months of the ninth Lok Sabha, she attended the House only when she absolutely had to—either because the environment ministry was up for questioning or when she had roster duty. She spent most of her time doing crosswords in the house and when a newsman once asked her why, she shot back, "You know what sitting in this House means—a six-letter word starting with an M... misery."

Her sharp tongue has been the talk of the town and 'Manekaisms' are repeated in Delhi's cocktail circuit. The lady herself avoids the social scene altogether, preferring to spend time with a few close friends outside the world of politics. The mercurial Maneka has definitely invested a new

aura to green politics.

Her greatest achievement is that she is no longer dependent on the Gandhi family name to see her through in life, but has carved a niche for herself most politicians—man or woman—would envy. Completely uninvolved in the raging politics of caste and clan and community, Maneka treks alone in the uphill task of retaining her constituency Pilibhit in the foothills of the Himalayas.

In the final sequence of Satyajit Ray's Ghare Baire, zamindar Nikhilesh (Victor Banerjee), a gentle liberal, rides out into the night as communal riots break out among his subjects. Then, a single gunshot echoes through the darkness. And the noble zamindar who cared about his indigent Muslim subjects is slain.

In a previous cinematic incarnation, his debut in fact, in Ray's Shatranj Ke Khilari, Victor Banerjee was Ali Naukvi, a soft-spoken aristocrat and Prime Minister of Wajid Ali Shah's Oudh before the 1857

mutiny.

Today, much to Ray's dismay, Victor is the Hindu revivalist BJP's candidate from the Calcutta North-West constituency. Always the quintessential bhadralok in a sparkling white dhoti-kurta, Victor reminds people that the BJP is not just the party of petty shopkeepers in the cow belt, but the party of Shyamaprasad Mookerjee. "The Congress(I) overlooks Bengal and the CPI(M), a party of 30-odd legislators in the 542-seat Lok Sabha, is powerless to do anything for the state," says Victor. "I have spoken to L. K. Advani, And I have told him that if I am elected, my first priority will be West Bengal."

Initially approached by the Congress(I), Victor had agreed to contest from Dum Dum or Barasat Lok Sabha constituency after talks with the PCC(I) president, Siddhartha Shankar Ray. But days later, at a Delhi press conference, full of high drama and filmy twists to the story, BJP all-India

general secretary Vishnukant Shastri introduced him as "our candidate from Calcutta North-West". "Victor's father is a good friend of mine," says Prof. Dilip Chakraborty, the Janata Dal nominee from Calcutta North-West. "You are a nice boy. Did you have to join the BJP of all parties?" he told Victor.

"I cannot help but agree with the BJP's concept of secularism," says Victor, suggesting that Article 370 of the Indian Constitution which gives special status to Jammu and Kasmir should be abolished. Victor, who believes that the Muslims in India are pampered, is confident of victory. "History favours the Congress(I) but I am almost sure that the people of Calcutta North-West will endorse a change and vote me in." Victor, who runs a blind school and organised a union for junior artistes in the film industry, has covered 65 per cent of the heavily congested constituency. While he believes that the Congress(I) is incapable of providing stability and true secularism, he is impressed by former MP Mamata Banerjee's fiesty spir-

Victor Banerjee as a man of the people? Maybe. Victor Banerjee as a distinguished parliamentarian? Very doubtful. Perhaps unlike Vyjayanthimala Bali and Sunil Dutt, Victor Banerjee may have to wait his turn till the next time. The Congress(I)'s Dr

it. And though Victor disdains Marxism as a doomed ideology, he considers chief minister Jyoti Basu a fine man and a good

administrator.

Tiger Pataudi: Charismatic, in any field





ctor Banerjee (with wife Maya): Going for saffron

Rajesh Khanna: Now wooing the electorate

Debi Pal and the Janata Dal's Prof. Dilip Chakraborty may be too tough for the BJP to handle in the 1991 Lok Sabha polls.

A stunning mother of two and a former princess (by marriage), Uma Gajapathi Raju has left a fragrant trail behind her in the port town of Vishakhapatnam in the eastern ghats.

The seat had the reputation of being a citadel of crude trade union leaders or feudal landlords. While her nomination in 1989 had surprised even local Congressmen, her renomination was inevitable. She even beat the pompous civil-contractor-cum-film-producer-cum-philanthropist, T. Subbarami Reddy, in the race for the Vishakhapatnam ticket for a second time.

Daughter of an Ashok Leyland director from Palghat, Uma had collared the prince

of Gajapathinagaram during her graduation days in Stella Maris College in Madras. But her induction into political and social activities beyond the banquet halls of kitty parties began under the initiation of former Andhra Pradesh governor Kumudben Joshi.

While her husband, Anand Gajapathi Raju, was a TDP MLA and later a TDP MP from Bobbili she herself strayed into Congress(I), and its allied organisations. A prime catch for the Congress(I), which was out in the woods then, she rode into the Congress(I) with her prince on a white charger.

As the daughter-in-law of the royal family she had earned an electoral edge in the urban sections of her constituency, but her present status as a divorcee might turn the

tables on her which she shrugs off saying, "I have done more in the last 14 months than what a king could do for this constituency".

Having found a computer kid, Awadesh Sharma, as her political advisor, Uma has now launched a door-to-door personal contact programme to win over more rural votes. Pitched against a soft drinks tycoon as the TDP candidate, Uma says that her campaign strategy would be to throw more light on the requirements of the rural segment and how she could achieve them. The protection of the environment is topmost in her agenda, and she had already distributed lakhs of drumsticks and papaya seeds in her constituency.

Uma has been a close friend of the Rajiv Gandhi family for long. She was one of the confidantes of Sonia Gandhi when it came to window-shopping either at Delhi or in London and the former Prime Minister's children had spent their vacations in the Araku valley-close to the kingdom of the Gajapathi Rajus.
The AICC president had taken special

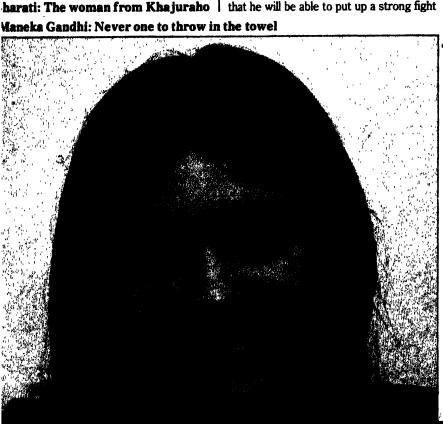
interest in the electioneering in Vishakhapatnam segment in 1989 and spent one full

day for the benefit of Uma and her husband, Anand Gajapathi Raju, who contested from Bobbili and lost.

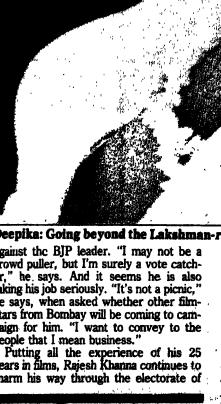
The rivalry between senior Congress(I) leaders earned Rajesh Khanna the nomination for the New Delhi Lok Sabha seat. Questions were raised why an outsider from Bombay was brought in by the party high command and pitted against the BJP heavyweight, Lal Krishna Advani. Apparently, the filmstar politician himself was initially interested in the Bombay (South) Lok Sabha seat. But when he was refused he opted for a seat in Delhi.

The rivalry between R.K. Dhawan and H.K.L. Bhagat finally left no choice with the party high command but to field Rajesh Khanna for the prestigious seat in the capital. The strategy adopted by the party seems to be two-pronged. One, to field someone against Advani, someone whose defeat would not mean too much to the party. Why lose a strong candidate at Advani's doorstep? But, on the other hand, if a rank outsider, who can pull in the crowds anyway, like Rajesh Khanna, manages to defeat the BJP heavyweight, its morale would be shattered. In that sense, Rajesh is an excellent bait or sacrificial goat, whichever way you look at it. He provides the big scare, but if he loses, no problem, he's done his bit; but if he wins, boy, imagine the damage done to the BJP!

The filmstar-turned-politician, however, takes all this very coolly. He is confident



Deepika: Going beyond the Lakshman-r against the BJP leader. "I may not be a crowd puller, but I'm surely a vote catcher," he says. And it seems he is also taking his job seriously. "It's not a picnic," he says, when asked whether other filmstars from Bombay will be coming to campaign for him. "I want to convey to the people that I mean business." Putting all the experience of his 25 years in films, Rajesh Khanna continues to charm his way through the electorate of





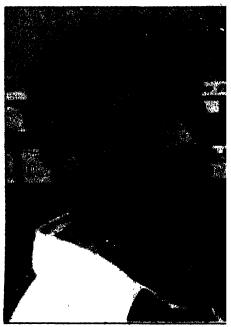
his constituency. He reserves his special attention, naturally, for the women. It hardly matters whether she is a goodlooking housewife of a posh colony or a middleaged Harijan woman of his constituency. The famous smile and crinkly eyes that won so many hearts two decades ago are all there and followed by either a namaste, an affectionate pat on the head or a melodramatic slap on the palm to drive the point home—"Mohar lagegi haath pe."

Marie San Bar Bar Bar San Care Control of the Contr

Interestingly, Rajesh Khanna is not too keen on projecting his glamorous image while campaigning. Rather, he prefers to maintain a low profile. Travelling in a non-descript white Ambassador car he reaches the different corners of his constituency to meet the electorate. His strategy, too, is double-barrelled. To capitalise on his 'instant recognition' factor, and, at the same time to build up a rapport by the friendly neighbour approach.

Despite 40 Test appearances, Chetam Chaulian failed to get a single century. But he's quite determined —and confident—of a performance in the elections that will get him a standing ovation. Clearly, he's seeking to achieve on the electoral field what he did not in the playing arena.

Chauhan loved a challenge when in flannels. And even a decade after having last



Chetan Chauhan: A solid stand always

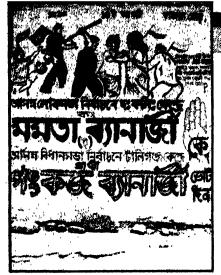
played a Test, that fire still burns within him. After all, Amroha, from where he is contesting as a BJP candidate, is regarded a Janata Dal stronghold and had returned a JD ticket-holder in the last elections.

Some eyebrows were indeed raised when Chauhan; 43, accepted the BJP offer. His explanation was: "The nation is in the midst of a crisis....And it's the BJP alone, which being a wholly nationalist party, can get the country's act together..."

Chauhan was never known to be a great strokemaker. But he was always very effective. He may be a trifle short on charisma, but having been born in Meerut, which isn't very far from his constituency, Chauhan is pretty familiar with the wicket, so to say.

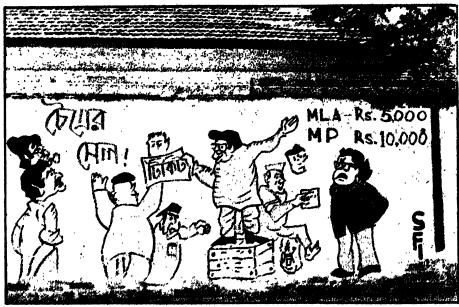
Known to be outspoken, whether as national player or national selector, Chauhan could be an asset if elected. At least, he's not the type to compromise. And the country could do with some more of his breed, the ones who will not put on offer their self-respect.

Manini Chatter jee, Lokendra Pratap Sahi, Lekha Rattanani, Srin joy Chowdhury, G.S. Radhakrishna, S. Srinivasan, Pranay Sharma and Sohini Sen



On asking the CPI(M) who patronises goons like Lallu and Badsha Alam

Sunil K. Dutt shows it like it is

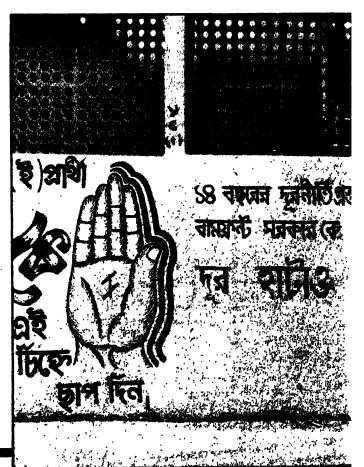


The year-end sale of party tickets

ADIFFERENT WALL GAME:



S.S. Ray apologising to the West Bengal electorate of 1972 for his past mistakes and promising to apologise again if necessary



'Now that my day is done, O Lord, give me salvation...'







On Mamata Banerjee, 'the darling of the press', with her injured hand as her symbol

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGÜLAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

 Aayee Milan Ki Raat: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383)-4 shows.

Avinash Wadhwan and Shaheen are the lead pair in this film. Others co-starring are Anupam Kher, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Aloknath, Aruna Irani, Rita Bhaduri and Paresh Rawal. The film is directed by K. Pappu and the music is by Anand Milind.

• Afsana Pyar Ka: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138)—4 shows.

Directed by M. Shahjehan and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Aamir Khan, Neelam, Beena, Sayeed Jaffrey, Rakesh Bedi, Amita Nangia and Kiran

 Benaam Badsha: Orient (Bentınck Street; 281917), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri

Street; 552270), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 365108), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417)--4 shows.

Anil Kapoor and Juhi Chawla are the lead pair. The film is directed by K. Ravi Shankar and the music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Do Matwale: Opera (Lenin Sarani; 281849), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 471757)—4 shows; Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437)—3 shows.

Directed by Ajay Kashyap, the chief attractions of this film are Sunjay Dutt, Sonam and Chunkey Panday. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

 Joemma Chumma in London: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440), Madhuban (Regent Park), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033).

Recordings of the live programmes abroad of Amitabh Bachchan, Sridevi, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Neelam, Anupam Kher and other stars.

 Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664)-4 shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Chandni play the lead in this recent box-office hit. Others co-starring are new-find Kanchan, Puneet Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Danny and Pran. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor.

• Yeh Aag Kab Bujhegi: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road: 242266)-4 shows.

A film on the evils of the dowry system, starring Sunil Dutt, Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Shakti Kapoor, Ranjeet, Bindu and debutante Sheeba. The film is directed by Sunil Dutt and the music is by Ravindra Jain.



• Beder Meye Josna: Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Áruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

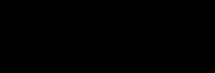
One of the biggest hits in recent times, this Bangladesh production stars Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh. Others in the cast are Saifuddin, Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Soma, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarnath and Bulbul. The film is directed by Matiyur Rehman Panu and the music is by Abu Taher.

• Prem Pujari: Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 473462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road: 352740)-3 shows.

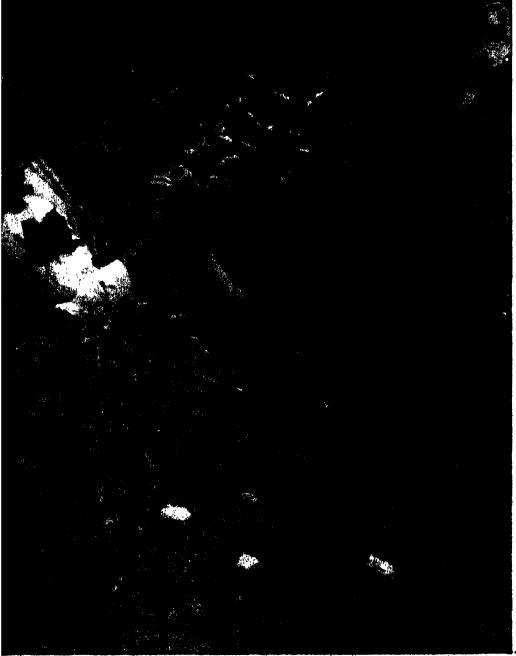
Directed by Nandan Dasgupta and with music by Swapan Jagmohan, the film stars Praseniit. Satabdi Roy, Manoj Mitra, Deepankar De, Rajeahwari Roy Choudhury, Nirmal Kumar and

Some Mukherjee.
• Rin Sodh: Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Ujjala (Russa Road; 478666)—3 shows.

Directed by Birnal Kumar, the main cast of this film comprises Govinda, Juhi Chawia, Kader Khan, Shakti Kapoor and Rabi Ghose. The music is by Rajesh.



Praseniit and Satabdi Roy in Prem Pulari



Théatres

• Anthony Kabiyal: Kashi Biswanath Mancha (Canal West Road; 355598)-Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3pm & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Jnanesh Mukheriee, the main cast comprises Arindam Ganguly, Indrani Talder, Kali Banerjee, Ketaki Dutta and Dulal Lahiri.

 Ghatak Bidaye: Star (79/3/4) Bidhan Sarani; 339369)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm &

6.30 pm.

The play stars Madhabi Mukherjee, Tarun Kumar, Sreela Majumder, Rabi Ghose and Soumitra Chattenee, who has also directed the play and composed its music.

• Jiban Sangini: Rungmahal (76/ 1B Bidhan Sarani; 337186)-Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Jnanesh Mukherjee who also stars along with Lily Chakraborty, Arun Banerjee, Utpal Roy, Kaushik Banerjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee and Chinmoy Roy.

• Ki Bibhrat: Rangana (153/2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road: 556846)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

A comedy, starring Anup Kumar, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Abhisek Chatterjee, Ajit Banerjee, Gita Dey, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Aloka Ganguly and Ratna Ghosal. Direction: Ganesh Mukherjee.

 Nati Binodini: Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street; 338413)-Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Bina Dasgupta who also stars in the title role, the cast includes Ashim Kumar. Anıtesh Bhattacharya, Ujjal Sengupta, Kaberi Biswas and others.

• Prem Parinati: Pratap Mancha (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; opp. Rajabazar tram depot)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Tarun Kumar, the cast includes K. Debraj, Manju Bhattacharya, Ashim Mukherjee, Meena Dey, Partha Banerice and Rita Koyral.

• Saheb: Circarena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street; 557213)--Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Tapas Paul stars in the title role. Also co-starring are Subhendu Chatterjee, Anamika Saha, Srirup Mitra, Bani Kumar, Manju Chakraborty, Bulbul Chowdhury, Chandrani Halder and Sovanlal Mukherjee, who also directs.

 Sudhu Bhalobasa: Minerva Theatre (6 & 6/1 Beadon Street; 554489) -Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. at 3 pm & €.30 pm.

Irani Mukherjee, Keka Choudhury, Sumanta Roy, Miss; Liza and Miss J are the principal attractions of this play, directed by Partha Sarathi Das.

Special Events

19 May: 9.30 am; 21-24 May:

6.30 pm Rabindra Janmotsav, organised by Rabindra Sadan, features a Rabindrasangeet (Natak, Nrityanatya and Geetinatya) session on

19th; another Rabindiasangeet (Prem and Prakriti) session on 21st; dance-drama, Chandalika, presented by Mamata Shankar Ballet Troupe on 22nd; yet another Rabindrasangeet (Prem) session on 23rd; and dance-drama, Tasher Desh, presented by Nrityangan on 24th.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road: 289978).

25 May: 6 pm

Surabhika presents an evening of ghazals featuring Munni Begum of Pakistan and Ratna Basu.

At Kala Mandu (Shakespeare Sarani; 479086/402197).

25 May: 6.30 pm

Anamika presents the Hindi play, Bari Buan, based on Badal Sircar's original Bengah script and translated by Dr Pratibha Agarwal. Directed by Bunal Lath, the cast includes Vinita Rellin, Ajay Chaturvedi, Yogesh Suri, Anna Bhattacharya, laxmi Prasad, Nutan Kumud and Dinesh Thakkar.

At Kala Mandir [Basement] (Shakespeare Sarani; 479086).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2) Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr (5). Al-306 at 1915; Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6). Al-309 at 1910; Dep (6): Al-309 at 2025. London-Deihi-Calcutta: Arr. (7).

Al-132/1328 at 1230. Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr (4). SU-537 at 1525.

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep (4): SU-538 at 1725

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanoi: Arr (2): SU-541 at 0640; Dep. (2). SU-541 at 0750. Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2). SU-542 at 1615; Dep. (2) SU-542 at

1815 Amman-Calcutta: Arr. (4) RJ-184 at 0645.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep (5): RJ-185 at 0530.

Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (1): RO-063 at 1115, Arr. (6). RO-063 at 1045, Dep. (1). RO-063 at 1230, Dep. (6): RO-063 at 1200 + Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest:

Arr. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2015; Dep. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2130 Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4). SQ-

420 at 1310. Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2). SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at 1210.

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7). IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr (1, 3, 6). TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep (1, 5) RA-214 at 1455

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7). IC-748 at 1930; Arr (1, 5). RA-213 at 1355.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6). IC-723 at 1340; Dep (daily). BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935. **Dhaka-Calcutta:** Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (daily) BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855 Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5).

BG-698 at 1950 Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 1910

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (2). KB-106 at 0900; Arr (2). KB-105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India 🖔 Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2). Al-101 at 0230

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Al-1328 at 1230.

Indian Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-176 at 0900 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr. (daily). IC-274 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0800.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7). IC-765 at 1700, Dep. (6). IC-265 at 1700, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7) IC-766 at 2210, Arr (6): IC-266 at 2205.

Printed here is the requiar Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6, 7) IC-771 at 0620, Arr (1, 2, 4, 6, 7): IC-772 at 1200

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC-410 at 0615

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily) IC-409 at 1545.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-729 at 0730; Arr (daily) IC-230 at 1630, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6). IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily). IC-741 at 0835 and IC-743 at 1330; Arr. (daily): IC-742 at 1055 and IC-744 at 1550

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0530; Arr (2, 4, 6). IC-286 at 1000

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1). IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4). IC-213 at 1130, Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4). IC-213 at 1525, Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (1): IC 221 at 1300, Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-221 at 1100, Arr (1). IC-222 at 1520, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-222 at 1320

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-201 at 1460; Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-202 at 1730

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily): IC-255 at 0610, Arr (daily). IC-256 at 1050

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-257 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-257 at 1510

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6). IC at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6) IC-270 at 2040

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-269 at 1650, Arr (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-277 at 1720; Arr (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-278 at 2210

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-542 at 1000.

Madras-Vishakapatnam-Calcutta: Arr (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at

Vayudoot 🗰 🚟

Calcutta-Agartala-Kailashahar: Dep. (2, 4). PF-729 at 0710; Arr (2, 4): PF-730 at 1120 Calcutta-Shillong-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6): PF-701 at 0710, Dep. (7): PF-701 at 1210,

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta. + No traffic rights on Calcutta-Bangkok-Calcutta

7 DAYS

Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): PF-702 at 1120, Arr. (7): PF-702 at 1620. Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (7): PF-729A at 0710: Arr. (7): PF-730A at 1140.

Calcutta-Jamahedpur: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-717 at 0630, Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717A at 1330; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-718 at 0825, Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718A at 1525.

Calcutta-Agartala-Aizaw(: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-705 at 0855; Arr (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-706 at 1300.
Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5). PF-705A

at 1250, Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-706A at 1635.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep (1, 3, 5). PF-707 at 0855; Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-708 at 1150

D	rture	EASTERN RAILWAY	Arri	lwal .			SOUTH-EASTERN	A	
Up Up	Time	Howrah	Time	Dn	Depa	rture	RAILWAY	Arri	VBI
2311	19-00	Delhi-Kalka Mali	8-30	2312		_	Housek		D
3005	19-20	Amritser Meli	8-05	3006	Up	Time	<u>Howrah</u>	Time	Dn
3003	20-00	Bombay Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Madras Mail	7-00	6004
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Deihl) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mail via Nagpur	8-00	800
		press via Gaya-Varanasi			2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	285
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	803
		Arr—Wed. Fri. & Sun.			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	802
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex- press via Patna Dep-Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sun.	18-00	2304	2841 2611	14-30 22-35	Coromandel (Madras) Ex- press Bangalore Express	11-50 13-45	284 261
		Arr-Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat.			2011	22-33	Dep—Tues	10 40	20.
2301	16-00	Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	l		Arr-Sun.		
		week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	801
		Dep—Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. &			8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	801 800
		Sun.			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30 6-05	801
		Arr—Tues, Wed. Thurs. Sat. &			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	800
2373	23-00	Sun. Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	2374	8007 8409	22-00 19-35	Jagannath (Purl) Express Via	7-45	841
		press Tri-Wkly Dep—Tues. Fri. & Sat.			2821	5-55	Naraj Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	282
05.47	10.15	Arr—Tues. Wed. & Sat.	4 45	2E 40	9070	00.00	press	4-15	808
2547	13-15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex- press	4-15	2548	8079 8045	23-20 11-10	Tirupati Express East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex-	14-55	804
		Dep—Mon. & Thurs.					press	44.00	801
3009	20-05	Arr—Thurs. & Mon. Doon Express via Grand	7-20	3010	8017	16-45	Purulia Express Dep—Except Saturday	11-20	6U I
3009	20-05	Chord Express via Grand	7-20	3010			Arr—Except Sunday		
3007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	_
3049	13-05	Amritser Express	15-45	3050	ł		Monday only		
3011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	l —	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	260
3039	20-55	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-30	3040			- Guwahati Express Saturday only		
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	264
3021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	ł		Guwahati Weekly Express		
2557	6-00	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
5659	17-35	Kemrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660		00.05	Thursday only	22-15	
3317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-13	_
3029	17-15	Coeffield Express	10-30	3030	1		Terminus Weekly Express (via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45 6-35	3036 3032	1		Saturday only		
3031 3025	21-00 23-00	Danapur Express North Bihar Express	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	265
3023	23-00	DepWednesday ArrFriday	11-10	3020	2002	22-33	Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)	10 40	
3071	22-05	Jamelpur Tri-wkly Express	6-00	3072	1		Dep-Fri. & Sun		
		Dep-Tues. Thurs. & Sat.		_	1		Arr-Tues. & Fri.		
		Arr-Mon. Thurs. & Sat.			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	_
3015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016]		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
2159	15-25	Chambal (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160	ì		& Cuttack)		
		weekly Superfast Express			1		Wednesday only		**
		Dep-Thurs. Sat. & Sun.			-	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	267
		Arr—Tues. Wed. & Thurs.		44==			Weekly Express (via Howrah		
1171	15-25	Shipra (indore) Express	7-30	1172	1		& Cuttack)		
		Dep—Tues. & Wed. Arr—Sat. & Sun.			2640	22-35	Monday only Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	_
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3321	15-25	press	7-30	3320			Howrah)		
E040	20.05	Dep & Arr-Mon. & Fri.	10.40	5050	1	14-10	Thursday only Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	260
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr-Sunday	10-40	5030		14-10	Patna Weekly Express (via Howrah)	10-40	200
		<u>Sealdah</u>					Wednesday only		
3143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144]				
3153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154	ENG	10IES- P-	or round the clock information o	f Eastern	سالم
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152			or round the clock information of tial 203545-54 for in-coming trai		
3133	20-45	Mughal Sarai Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	all ot	her Infor	mation. For information about	reservat	ions (
3103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express	10-25	3104	Easte	m and Sc	outh Eastern Railways trains, di n weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm	an 203500	
5185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186			T WEEKDEVS AND WARN TO 2 OM	on aund	275 đ

JUNIOR WHIRL I Hal Kaufman



MISH-MARCH! How can this be — March ilons and lembs all in one piece? See if you can find a half dozen of each.

SAY FAST^I Springs spring forth in Spring, and shoots shoot forth, stand tall. Hot summer kills the flowers and leaves, the leaves to fall in fall.



SEARCH WORDS FOR TREES Names of seven common trees may be found among consecutive

letters of words in these sentences (one in each).

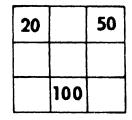
- Men were sent to a key location.
 A tail fence was places.
- around them.
 3. I had to cancel my arrange-
- ments.
 4. Grandma pledged that she
- would help.
 5. Will Owens left the compound early.
- 6. Lucy pressed her best dress.
 7. An opal may split exposed to dry air.

How quickly can you find the seven trees?

1. Oak 2 Ceder 3 Elm 4 Maple 5 Willow 6 Cypress 1. Palm

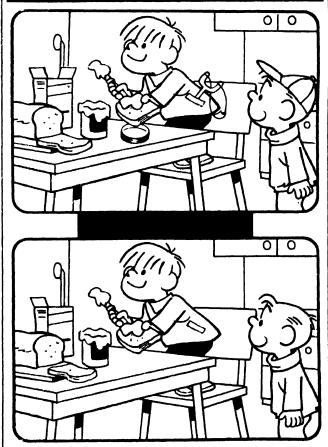
• 1000 TIMES, NO? Place six numbers between 1 and 25 (don't penic, it's not that hard) in empty squares of the diagram below, so that the product of each three numbers in a row—across, down and diagonally—is 1000.

Obviously, the missing number at top is 1. Simply take it from there.



Across—20, 1, 50, then 25, 10, 4, and 2 0,00

HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

wiseind: 4 Sjiuhejot is wiseind: 3 Bok's cep is wiseind: 6 Arm is moved.
Differences: 1 Box tieb is wiseind: 5 Sjics of bread is smaller: 3 Jet. cep is

SEE, HEAR! Stop, look and listen, it's a robin. Add colors neatly to this scene: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Pink. 6—Lt. green. 7—Ok. brown. 8—Dk. green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

SERAGLIO

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

'edus 'Hoy .unuburu elejisooj

OUIZ - Neil O'Brien

Phubodh Pal, Calcutta 20, wants to know about varities of sausages.

There are innumerable kinds of sausages made throughout the world, ranging in size from the little English chipolata to the giant Italian mortadella. All that most of them have in common is their shape and the fact that the main ingredient is (or ought to be) pork.

Ordinary English breakfast sausages are either fried or grilled. Pork sausages are more expensive and have a better flavour than beef sausages. To both kinds a proportion of cereals may have been added. The best sausages are made by individual pork butchers, and are sometimes highly special. They have a much better flavours, than the branded kinds. Genuine Cumberland sausages are worth a try. They come in long, mottled coils, and are bought by length rather than weight. Black pudding is an English blood sausage served fried at breakfast. Sausage meat can be bought without the skins and is used for making sausage rolls, Scotch eggs, and stuffing.

Another kind of sausage is the salami type, pre-cooked, sliced, and eaten cold, which can now be purchased fairly widely in Britain. Salami is produced all over Italy, the best kinds are made of pure pork, which may be flavoured with spices and white wine. Mortadella is the famous sausage of Bologna. Again, the best kind is made from pork, but the cheaper versions may include donkey meat and other rather dubious ingredients.

Spain has spicy red sausages called chorizos, which are either served with garbanzos (chick-peas) as a main course or as a tapa (appetiser). In France, the salami type of sausage is known as a saucisson. Some of the best-known saucissons come from Lyon, Arles, and Strasbourg. They are served sliced as an hors d'oguvre. The large Tourne sausages are

CBS

11th Question: Who are known as the '1470 men'? (Sanjay Panda, B/72 Sector-5, Rourkeia 2, Orissa) Ans; The Homo Habilis (ancestors of Home Saplens). The reason for this is that the fossiles of the homo habilis

discovered by Richard Leakey in 1972, kept in Kenya National Museum, are under the catalogue number 1470 of the Museum.

either grilled of fried in the English style.

The countries which produce the widest variety of sausages must be Germany and Austria. There are literally hundreds of different



kinds in Germany alone. Frankfurters are precooked in pairs and simply need to be reheated in boiling water. They are not generally very distinguished. Bockwurst is similar. Bratwurst is a large pork sausage which can be fried or grilled. Barbecued over a charcoal grill, it can be very good. Blutwurst is the German equivalent of black pudding. Cold sausages include Leberwurst (liver sausages) and Zungenwurst (tonque sausage). Krakauer (polish ham sausage) is also very popular.

Calcutta has its own special sausages-spiced with chilly, onion, parsley and

are synonymous with the best of Calcutta sausages. The Goan and the Chinese communities have their ow sausages too. Each accord ing to his taste! Rtn Ashok Dasgupta

mint. Entally and Park Circi

writes from Jhumri Telaiya (Bihar):

'Rotaract Club of Jhumri Telaiya, sponsored by Rotary Club of Koderma, organised a district level quiz competition among the students of colleges of Hazaribagh District. Altogether 20 teams each comprising two participants participated in the preliminary rounds. The comfortable winners were Navin Pandya and Vikash Pandva of the local JJ College. But for second place, there was a neck and neck fight. After the last round three teams were locked or same points. In the tiebreaker Prashant Sinha and partner of St Columbus Col lege, Hazaribagh emerged as the runner-up. The quiz masters were Jc Mahesh Daruka and Radha Iyer."

A guiz report from Niranjan Behera, Rourkela:

"Youth Hostels Association of India, Rourkela Unit organised a quiz as a part of Hourkela Youth Festival among the different schools and colleges in and around Rourkela. Fortyseven college teams and 52 school teams participated. The qui programme was ably conducted by Annuradha Pati and Gurpreet Kaur. In school group, Anirban Rout and Md Asif Aktar Khan finally emerged winners and were awarded the Roufest Quiz Shield. In the college group, Regional Engineerin College, Rourkela, consisting of N Viswanathan, Anurag Barui and Prakash Francis edged out the others to clinch the Roufest Quiz Shield. Youth Hostels Association of India Rourkela Unit has been conducting and promoting quiz activities in and arounc Rourkela since 1984.

QUESTIONS

1) Except for their colour, which two precious gems: are exactly the same? (Aguil Kamal, Burdwan 4) 2) Which presentday politician was a pilot and took part in the Kashmir war and the Indonesian Independence struggle? (Anjani Kumar, Ranchi 1) 3) Which company owns Juventus Pootball Club?

(Biren Sen, Ranchi 1) 4) Where in the human body would you find "Fleil's Island"? (Ehtesham

Anjum, Calcutta 16) 5) Name the dog which recovered the Jules Himet Cup when it was stolen in 1966: (Sauray Mitra, Calcutta 29)

6) Whose last poetic creation before his death was Lotte: The Power of Love? (Subrata Haidar, Hooghly 3) 7) Which airlines slogan is We treasure each

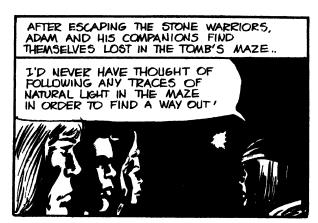
encounter? (Rehmat Ali, Calcutte 14)

B) Aziodothiamidine (AZT) is a drug against which disease? (Anjani Kumar Goel, Tinsukia) 9) What penalty did the Artha Shastra prescribe for a person who spreads talse rumours? (J. Omprakash Asit and Madhavi, Jharsuguda 2) 21 18) What is SCIDS? (Amit Kumar Basu, Kharagpore)

ANSWERS

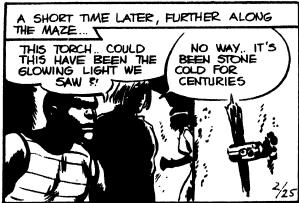
Syndrome. Immuno Deficiency more dangerous than AIDS—Severe Combined si noinw esseelb A(es Hanging, (tneathent for a patient). Hs 7 leking per course or SISOS Brup eul) SOIY (8 T) China Aldines. Chattopadhyay. figurabithsH 10(8 2)Pickies. fissure of Sylvius. cerebrum hidden in the 3 Figs of Turin. 2) Biju-Patnalk. colinidania They are both forms of . serindass bna seiduff(F















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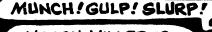








MOOSE MILLER By Bob Weber



haran Karan

MOOCH MILLER IS ABOUT TO BECOME THE FIRST VICTIM OF MY KILLER GUARD DOG







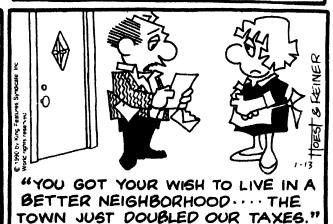


THE LOCKHORNS









GARFIELD By Jim Davis













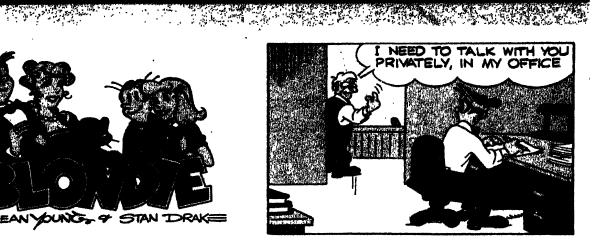




THE ADVENTURES OF ERGIONNAIRE BEAUTER

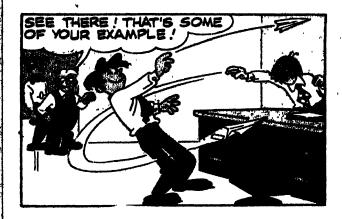






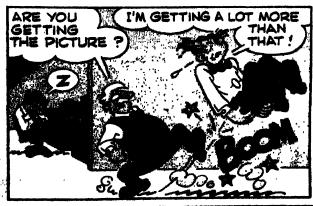














Who was it who said that politics was the last refuge of the scoundrel?

Dacoits gone straight also take to it as BJP's **Tehsildar Singh** shows.

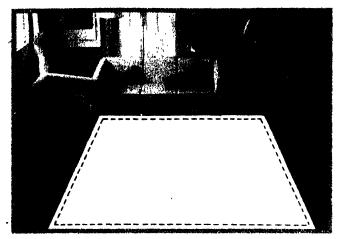
Originally facing death sentences and life imprisonment for over 170 years on 16 different counts, he will have an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with Mulayam Singh Yadav in the Jaswantnagar Assembly constituency in UP.

And, as they say, may the best man win.

Photograph by KRISHAN SAITH

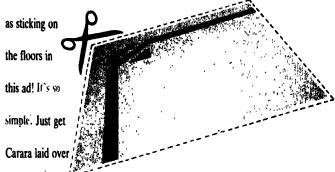
ODAY, GIVE EACH OF THESE ROOMS A MATCHING MARBLE FLOOR.

Y TOMORROW, DO THE SAME IN YOUR HOME.

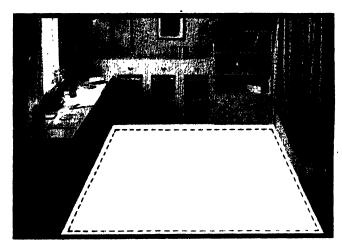


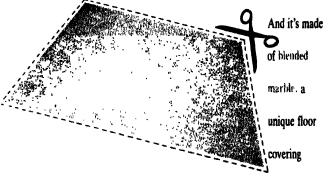
CUT OUT THESE THREE FLOORS, MATCH THEM TO THE ROOMS ON THE LEFT. AND STICK THEM WHERE THEY LOOK BEST.

Yes, with Carara, laying down a marble floor in your home is as simple

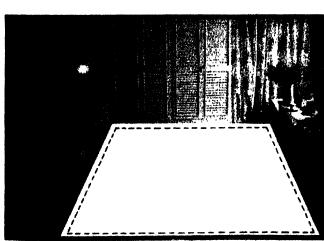


your existing floor. It'll take only a few hours. No mess, no inconvenience.





containing fine granulated marble. It comes in two exquisite designs and a range of original shades. What's more, Carara is scratch-resistant. After all, it's created



with the technical expertise of Armstrong, the American floorings giant. So it lasts for years.

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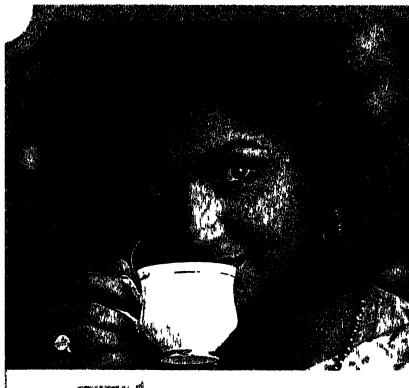
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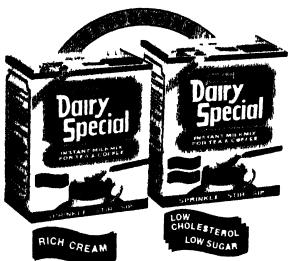
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Sapan Dairy Special.

Puts life into my tea and coffee Mmmm A taste so special And so convenient to use No more heating water to make liquid milk No more stubborn lumps that refuse to dissolve No more washing dirty pots and pans Unlike other dairy whiteners Here is convenience at your finger tips Just sprinkle... stir... and sip ! That's my perfect mate for tea and coffee

For a perfect cup of tea or coffee follow instructions on the pack

JUST SPRINKLE... STIR... & SIP

Mavericks .

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The Telegraph



An extract from Shobha De's explosive novel about the Bombay film world, Starry Nights.

In June 1997, Hong Kong will become part of the People's Republic of China, and the pressures are already showing.

A photofeature on the winged beauty of pigeons.

Telecommunication is on the zip-zap-zoom, and that's exciting news.

SECTIONS

11 Heritage 12 Inner Eye

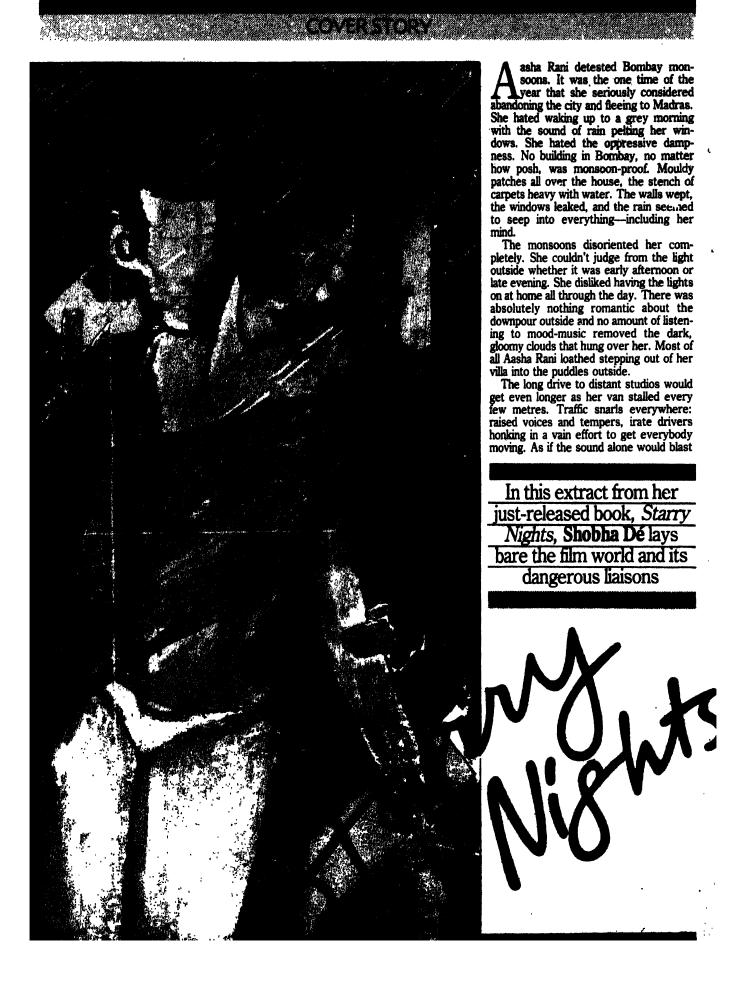
7 Days

23 Junior Whirl

24 Quiz

25 Comics

30 in the News



the clogged drains and empty the roads of mounds of rotting garbage. Bombay stank during the rains. The three monsoon months seemed endless.

It was while her car was stuck at the Bandra intersection that she noticed Akshay's Mercedes right next to her. He was alone in the back seat reading *India Today*. She looked at him for nearly five minutes with longing and sadness. He wasn't keeping very well these days. It showed on his face. Why had he cut her out of his life so totally? Did his career matter all that much to him? Was it just Rita's and Mahm's threats that did it? Or had he got tired of her? She had to know.

She lowered her window and tried to attract his attention. Her sleeve got drenched in seconds. Damn! Akshay's driver saw her before he did and turned around to inform him. Akshay looked up from the magazine and quickly looked away. Aasha Rani was crushed. Why? What had she done to him. it was so unfair!

Spontaneously, in the pouring rain, she opened the car door and jumped out. Before Akshay knew what was happening, she'd got in beside her. "You are dripping wet and ruining my car," he said coldly. "Akshay, please, not in front of—" and she indicated the driver. Her own was staring at the scene open-mouthed.

The lights had changed. Akshay's driver had to move but he didn't have instructions. To the studios as usual, or...? There was a deafening cacophony of car horns and to add to the confusion, almost out of nowhere, a crowd of half-naked urchins appeared and surrounded Akshay's car. "Abbey hero, Love-Love, Kiss-Kiss!" they hollered, thumping the windows and obstructing the windshield.

"You have no right to behave like this," Akshay said, his nostrils flaring with rage. Aasha Rani pleaded with him, "Please, all I want is one hour of your time. Don't turn me away. Don't create a scene, not here." Akshay glared at her, "I'm not the one creating the scene—you are. I'll ask my driver to pull up after the lights and I'd be obliged if you got into your own car. There's nothing I have to say to you." Aasha Rani tried to hold his hand. The urchins screamed with delight and shouted, "Chuma-Chuma." He pulled his hand away and said a sharp "Chalo" to the driver.

Aasha Rani knew she was running out of time. In desperation, she bent and touched his feet, "I beg of you, don't do this to me. You have humiliated me enough. All I want is an explanation. Tell me why you stopped seeing me, wanting me and I'll never

Extracted from Starry Nights by Shobha Dé; Penguin Books India (P) Ltd; 1991; Rs 65 bother you again." Akshay looked into her eyes and something about their expression made him change his mind. He told the driver to turn the car around and head for Holiday Inn.

It felt so good to be back in the familiar suite and the even more familiar bed. Aasha Rani clung to Akshay. She was dying to ask him why he had cut her out of his life. But she knew better. Their love-making was different too. No biting, clawing or frenzied passion. Akshay was gentle and unfrenzied. Aasha Rani didn't feel too nuch like a tigress herself. They hardly spoke. But both of them knew that the affair was on once more. That the self-imposed ban had been lifted.

But Aasha Rani's producers weren't all

.

'You don't understand,
Shethji. I love this man. I
really do. I want to marry
him. Bear his child. We
have found a way, but don't
ask me what. I can't tell
you. As soon as the
ceremony is over, you'll be
the first person I'll bring
sweets for. But please do
not try and stop me. This
means everything to me,
everything'

that sympathetic or understanding. She began receiving angry calls. One of them was from Gopal. He put it crudely, "Dekho, jaan-e-man, we all know that your chakkar with Akshay has astarted again. Chalo theek hai. You are free to warm anybody's bed if you want to. But not on our time. We are the people who pay for your fun. Remember that. If you ditch us, you will be finished. Each time you don't turn up for shoting, we lose lakhs. You have already been knocked out of three big productions. Your reputation is mud. There are hazaar girls willing to take your place. Now listen to me, if you care about yourself and that lalanga, keep the dates you've given us. A lot of money is involved. If you don't, there are ways of dealing with you. Not even the Shethji will be able to help you then. All I have to do is to phone Amrishbhai and let him know

about your lafda with his pyaara beta. Phu to khatam.

Fortunately for Aasha Rani, her next two films were hits. Nothing else counted in the industry. She knew that too. She took advantage of the situation to skip work even more. Her schedules became erratic. She was dubbed the most undependable star. She was warned that an industry boycott was being planned.

The showdown finally took place on Rajiv Behl's sets. Aasha Rani was playing a double-role in his film. The usual one that revolved around twins separated at birth. She was expected to score a double victory with Hum Dono, Alag. But Aasha Rani's mind was not on the film at all. An elaborate mansion had been erected for the climax in which the rich twin comes face to face with the poor one. The shooting required complicated camera-work. Everybody was tense, including the young producer-director whose maiden film it was.

The first time Aasha Rani failed to show up he was furious but restrained himself when she arrived two days later. The second time he spoke to her firmly, but not sharply. The third time he threw a tantrum. Aasha Rani threw a countertantrum. The fourth time he asked her to get out. But Aasha Rani was too happy to care: "To hell with movies, yaar," she laughed when Linda told her that filmheroes were refusing to sign films if it meant acting opposite her. It was just the signal amma needed to come back and take charge of her daughter's career and life once again.

A mirchand wasn't happy with the developments, either. He sent for Aasha Rani after nearly three months. She knew what the meeting was for. Before he could say anything, she fell at his feet and said, "Forgive me. I have realised my mistake." Amirchand picked her up gently and put her on the settee. "Look here, I have been hearing stories, receiving complaints. All this is not good. You have to decide what you want to do with your life. Right now you are throwing it away. Your career is a shambles. Producers, directors, financiers, even your heroes have come to me. I told them, 'Bhai, she isn't my private property. Her life is her life. Why complain to me?' But they said. Shethji, only you will be able to help us. Only you can drill some sense into her head. We run at a loss if she cancels shooting. Today her films are still doing well. But we are gambling with our money on her future films. The public is fickle. Tomorrow there may be another craze, another heroine. We'll be stuck with unsaleable films starring her which have gone over-budget because of her nonsense. *Usko line mein laga do.*' So tell me what are you planning to do? Give me a straight answer. No *bakwas.*" Aasha Rani said, "OK, Boss, no *bakwas.*" And she told him her plans. "Akshay and I have decided to get married."

The Shethji looked at her incredulously, his eyes popping out of their sockets. "Tu bilkul pagal ho gavee hai kya? Married? How? He is already married. That wife of his will never agree to a divorce. Even if she does, it will take years and years. You will be an old hag by then. You have lost your senses. Snap out of it! Concentrate on your career. Find the right man. If you can't, I will. This much I can do for you. But don't waste your time on that worthless fellow. He can't even keep you happy in bed. I hear he is very sick."

Aasha Rani fell back automatically into her old habit of pressing Amirchand's feet. "You don't understand, Shethji. I love this man. I really do. I want to marry him. Bear his child. We have found a way, but don't ask me what. I can't tell you. As soon as the ceremony is over, you'll be the first person I'll bring sweets for. But please do not try and stop me. This means everything to me, everything."

"All you women are just the same—bloody fools! How can you be any different from your mother? She ruined your life. Now, you'll ruin your child's. Don't you learn from mistakes? What did that father of yours do for any of you? He didn't even give you his name. What will Akshay do, will he recognise your bastard child? You are being cruel to an innocent life. To satisfy your selfish urges you will raise a baby whose father will disown it--mark my words. How will that child grow up and go to school? Have you thought of all these things?"

Aasha Ram started to cry. "Shethii, you know I have tried to get Akshay out of my life. I'd stopped seeing him in between. I went with other men hoping I'd be able to get him out of my thoughts. But it didn't work, I'm willing to sacrifice everything. My career, my money, tame, sub kuch. All I want are your blessings. There is nobody else I can depend on in the world. Not even anima. If she finds out my plans, she will kill me. She'll do anything to stop this marriage. Shethji, I beg of you, don't hate me for what I'm doing. And you can tell all my producers that I'll finish their assignments on time. Now that I know the course my life is going to take, I feel calmer. I feel secure. I won't ditch anybody. I'll turn up for shooting. But I'm not going to sign any more films either."

Without another word, she bent down to touch his feet, picked up her bag and raif out, tears streaming down her face.

he news that Aasha Rani was quitting films spread quickly. Linda was the first to phone. "Is it true?" she asked. ' Aasha Rani said in an excited voice. "Why?" Linda demanded. "Are you asking as a friend or journalist?" Aasha Rani asked. "Don't you know by now-there is no such thing as 'friendship' between journalists and film-stars? A scoop is a scoop. It comes first-before anything else." "Come and have lunch with me. We'll talk about it." Linda paused, "I'll be bringing a photographer along. Put on your make-up and wear something trendy." Aasha Rani groaned, "Listen, do you never stop working? I don't feel like applying make-up today. I want to relax, chat, gossip. "Forget it in that case. I have loads of stuff to write. You know we are working on our annual issue right now. I'm not a lady of leisure like you. I work for a living. I can't waste time hogging idlis and listening to you mooning over that eunuch unless I can use your quotes!" Linda snapped. Aasha Rani was in much too good a mood to protest. "Chalo theek hai, see you in an hour."

Amma was suspicious. "Who was that on the phone?" she demanded. "Just Linda," Aasha Rani said nonchalantly. "Just Linda," amma mimicked. "Huh! That girl is no good. I've told you before. She is not your well-wisher. She is a trouble-maker. Why do you waste your time with her kind?" Aasha Rani smiled a mysterious smile and said nothing.

Amma had not been told about the marriage plans. She was furious when she heard Aasha Rani telling a producer over the phone that she was returning the signing amount of his forthcoming picture. "Have you gone mad? Why are you doing this?" she demanded. "I feel like taking some time off. I'm tired amma, I need a holiday," Aasha Rani replied airily. "What nonsense! At your age—tired? You look like a horse. There's nothing wrong with



you. Now is the time to make money," amma said scornfully.

"Money, money, money. That's all you think of. Well, I'm fed up of being your money machine. I've done enough for everybody—you, Sudha and the others—now, I want to live for myself and enjoy life." Amma glared at her, eyes blazing, "Ungrateful wretch! I've sacrificed so much—my youth, my time, my energy. What for? So that I could make you a star.

And this is how you treat your family? You want to throw everything away on some stupid whim, on some stupid man? Tell me, Baby, is that flop actor going to look after you in your old age? Is he going to look after your amma or your sisters? We have to look after ourselves. Tomorrow, you won't have anybody willing to look at you. Today you are famous, successful. India is at your feet. But memory is very short. If you get out of films, other girls will get in and the same fans who run after you today will be chasing them. That is the way the world is. Your arrogance won't work. Listen to your amma. Who else can tell you the truth? And don't open your heart to that evil girl. Never trust these journalists. They are snakes-vicious and poisonous. She will not think twice before biting you!'

Linda's byline was prominently displayed. Not wanting to wait for a month before carrying the sensational news in her own magazine, Linda had sold the story to the paper on the condition that they frontpaged the news and gave her a well-displayed byline. The short, snappy copy was full of statements that Aasha Rani had made to Linda strictly in confidence; feel-

.........

The phone at home had been ringing constantly with reporters hungry for the sordid details but amma fobbed off the journalists. **Various publications had** already written their versions of the suicide. She'd made it to the covers of all the leading film magazines and also rated a 'newsmaker' item in a political weekly. Akshay's 'role' in her suicide attempt had been unabashedly hyped

ings and ideas she'd let slip from time to time. She quoted Aasha Rani on topics ranging from her disillusionment with the film industry to her decision to quit, to marry Akshay, and to have his baby. The last was the final blow.

Kishenbhai and amma stared at the paper in disbelief. "Is this true?" Kishenbhai asked. Amma shook her

head, "Aasha Rani has lost her mind. She has gone mad.

No, I hope it is not true. She hasn't mentioned it to me at all. But these last few days she had become so secretive. She didn't tell me anything. I'm sure that shedevil Linda has made it all up to make her story sensational. Aasha Ram would not take such a step, I know my Baby. That wretched woman. I'd warned Baby about her. Now her eyes will finally open. These journalists are all the same. I'll deal with her later—Linda ki bachchi. Poor, poor Baby."

Aasha Rani took two days to come out of the coma. She was dopey and dis-



oriented when she surfaced but the moment the grogginess cleared she asked about Akshay: "Is he all right?" Amnia and Kishenbhai exchanged looks.

Amma and Kishenbhai exchanged looks. It was then that Aasha Rani noticed Kishenbhai hovering in a corner. "What is he doing here? Who let him in?" Kishenbhai placed a restraining hand over hers and said, "Please don't exert yourself. Try and rest. Relax a little. It's all right. Everybody is all right." Aasha Rani tried to get up but couldn't. "Why am I in this hornble rooni? I want to go home! Take me home immediately. I'm not staying here!"

Amma put her arms around her. "You'll have to remain here for a few more days. I'll be here. If you like I'll ask Sudha to come from Madras. Don't worry about anything. Kishenbhai is here now."

"I hate him." Aasha Rani sobbed, "I hate him for getting me into the industry, for ruining my life. I will never forgive him, never. Now take me home. I want to go home!"

It was only a fortnight later that Aasha Rani was able to read Linda's scathing scoop. The phone at home had been ringing constantly with reporters hungry for the sordid details but amma tobbed off the journalists Various publications had already written their versions of the suicide. She'd made it to the covers of all the leading film magazines and also rated a 'newsmaker' item in a political weekly. Akshay's 'role' in her suicide attempt had been unabashedly hyped and there were quite a few boxed interviews with Malini who had chosen to adopt the we-havenothing-to-do-with-it line, making sure to speak in the plural-for herself and Akshay.

The stories veered from the plainly absurd to the truly vicious. Akshay and Aasha Rani had been dubbed a modern-day Salim and Anarkali *jodi* and there were several snide digs about unrequited love.

The letters and flowers continued to pour in, including a bouquet and card from Linda. Amnia looked at it and shuddered as if it held something contaminated and vile. Silently, she trashed the roses and tore up the card. "The cheek of the woman," Aasha Rani heard her say to Kishenbhai. "I'll deal with her. A defamation case will cost too much and in the end, our Baby will suffer. But I'm going to talk to Amirchand. He'll set that chudail right."

In her statements to the press Malini had stressed the point that it was Aasha Ram who always threw herself at her husband, even after he had made it clear that he was not interested. Ajay too, had been quoted as saying, "My brother has so many women in love with him. Can he be held responsible if one of them tries to kill herself out of frustration?"

Only Akshay had refused all interviews.

Men forget such things after the first two or three years. We want romance like we see in the films. We want our husbands to sit at our feet while we sing songs and feed them grapes. We want them to be our slaves and listen to our every word. And what do we tell them? 'The maid servant didn't turn up today.' Or 'Darling, the jeweller has to be paid'

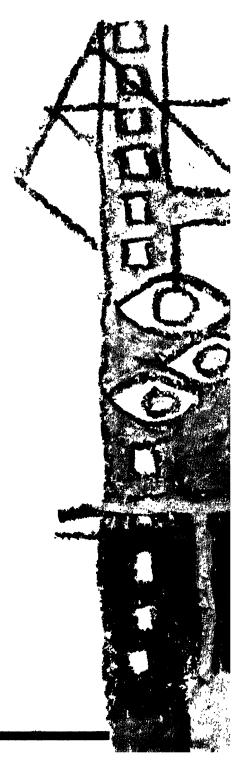
He'd become cold and unapproachable, withdrawing into an ominous silence. Aasha Rani was shattered by his indifference; by the way he neither confirmed not denied any of the rumours. She was anguished by the fact that he had even refused to acknowledge their relationship. That he had not so much as mentioned her name. As if, for him, the suicide bid had indeed been successful, and she had ceased to exist. But Aasha Rani still ached to see him. Still hungered for his touch. Still searched the bouquets and cards for his familiar scrawl. A word. A sign. She would ask amma if there were any messages from him half-a-dozen times a day. Amma would pretend she hadn't heard and busy herself fluffing the pillows.

Strangely enough, Aasha Rani's suicide attempt gave a little boost to Akshay's career. As Kishenbhai explained it, "Aasha Rani has made him a hero once more. The very fact that she was willing to die for him makes him a big superstar in the public's eyes. They think there must be something to him if someone like Aasha Rani loves him—to this extent. Chalo, let him benefit. It must be his naseeb. We'll worry about our girl. She has to resume shooting within a month, or even her underproduction films will go."

Kishenbhai instructed amma to make sure Aasha Rani got the right nourishment, enough fruit juice, curd and balanced nuts to get the colour back in her face.

Aasha Rani, however, was not in a cooperative frame of mind. She was listless and unhappy, moping around the house, yearning for Akshay. She refused to look at new scripts or consider the offer she got for a prestigious TV serial. "It is work that will heal the scars," amma said. "You must get back to the studios. That is the only way you'll forget. Who knows, if your stars are right, you may even meet

the right man. Don't think I'm being selfish. I want you to get married. I want you to settle down. But before that, you have to organise your life. Don't wait for that bustard to change his mind. Men are all the same. He will never leave his wife. Now even his career is picking up thanks to you. He doesn't need you any more, the sooner you realise the uselessness of your obsession the better."



Aasha Rani knew anma was right. But the memory of Akshay haunted her day and night. There was hardly a single waking moment when she didn't think of him and their time together. She broke down and told amma, "It's no use. I cannot forget him If he is keeping to himself, he has his reasons. I respect his decision."

For his part, Akshay left decision-making to Ajay and this time as well he

respected his brother's advice. "Forget that woman," Ajay told Akshay. "She is no good for you; just a cheap gangster woman. I will get you better girls—younger prettier. I'm not saying stay faithful to your wife. As India's biggest stud, it is your duty to have the world's most beautiful women. But leave that man-eater."

What Ajay and Malini could not counter was the mixture of guilt and loss that

seemed to suck the life out of him. Akshay had started taking sitar lessons and they were a convenient excuse to shut himself off in his room for hours on end. "Riyaaz." he'd say, when Malini asked him what he'd been doing all alone. Moody, distracted and out of breath more often than not. Akshay had lost his looks, his personality. He was gaunt and hollow-eyed; a ruined, haunted man.

Rita came to see what the matter was. Her husband's money was tied up in a couple of Akshay-productions. Malini let her in and tried to distract her with food. "Have another samosa. Sonie cold coffee?—It's the best in Bombay, ji." Rita's mouth moved constantly as she popped one snack after the other, but her eyes were unblinkingly riveted to Akshay's door. Finally she said, "Let me get to the point, Maliniji. I've come about Akshayji. What is the matter with him? You know you can trust me. Nervous breakdown or...?"

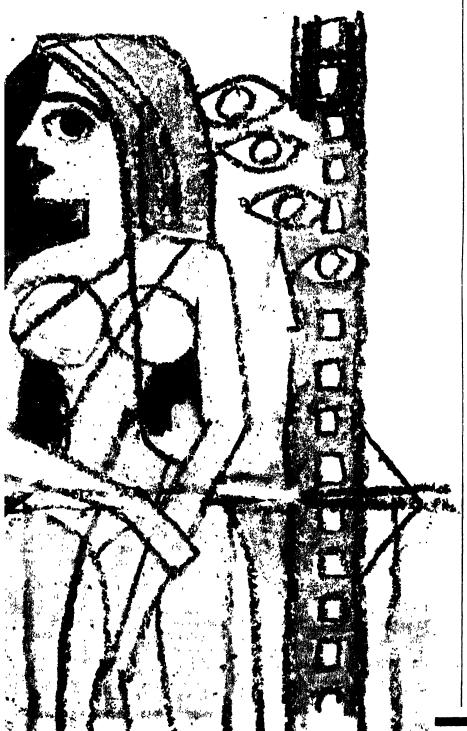
Malini's laugh was strained, "Nothing of the sort. Akshay is just fine. He has been working too hard. But after a fortnight's rest, he'll be back in the studios feeling fresh." Rita helped herself to a gulab jamur. "You aren't hiding anything from me, are you? I've been hearing all sorts of stories"

"All rubbish, Rıtaji," said Malmi as she put another gulab jamun in Rıta's plate. "Rumours, nothing else. People are so jealous. Rıval heroes are spreading all this nonsense. It's just not true. Akshay is a little fatigued, that is all. Did I show you my new Japanese pearls?"

But Rita was not to be diverted. "Does it have anything to do with Aasha Rani's lafda? I heard it was all because of Akshay."

"Nonsense! What has Akshay to do with that woman? We don't even utter her name in this house. It is all her fantasy. What can poor Akshay do? He has told her thousands of times, 'Stop dreaming.' That too he stopped, thinking he might be encouraging her. She is a maniac. I think—we think—she needs psychiatric treatment. Woh kuch pagal si ho gavee hai, she needs help. She has gone mad," Malini said more sharply than she had intended

"He had agreed to marry her, you know. Very reliable people have told me this," Rita said as she turned her attention to a plate of greasy cheese-balls. Malini took her time pouring a cup of tea from the silver tea-service and then spoke deliberately: "That woman will go to any extent to damage Akshay. And to ruin our family life. When she saw she was getting nowhere, she began spreading these absurd stories about their marriage. What marriage? Are we divorced yet? Akshay has never even uttered that dirty word in this



house. Poor frustrated woman. I feel sorry for her. She lives in her own world. Marriage! Hah! As if my husband has gone completely mad."

Quite unexpectedly, Rita softened and took her hand. "Don't get excited, yaar. These things happen in a marriage. We've all been in the same boat sometime or the other. No point in getting hysterical. We've had this chat before. But let me tell you something once again. If you want your husband back-I mean really back, not just physically around-then be good to him. Treat him with love. He needs it. He seems a lonely, lost man.

'Dekho yaar, you can say it's none of my business. And you can try and bullshit me. But what would be the point of that? I'm your friend-I'm the entire industry's friend. I want all of us to do well, live well, be happy. Apart from the business angle. where I admit I have a matlab, I'm concerned about both of you as an older didi

who has seen life.

"These men, our *filmi* men, are very insecure, no matter how successful they are. In fact, the more they succeed, the worse they feel. Take my husband. Each hit makes him more miserable. Immediately, his mind goes to the next one— 'Will I make money on that or will I lose everything?' It's the same with your husband. 'Will my next film flop. Or be a hit?' 'Will producers still flock to my door?' 'Will my fans desert me?' This is the time a man needs an understanding woman.

"Our problem is that we have become greedy. Very greedy. And we expect some great things out of marriage. Look at me. Over twenty years with this fellow and yet I expect him to remember my birthday, our anniversary. Get presents. Have a party. Stupid. I tell myself, 'Don't be silly, yaar.' Men forget such things after the first two or three years. We want romance like we see in the films. We want our husbands to sit at our feet while we sing songs and feed them grapes. We want them to be our slaves and listen to our every word. And what do we tell them? 'The maid servant didn't turn up today.' Or 'Darling the jeweller has to be paid.' We think of fantasies. We demand communication, attention, pampering. Arrey baba. forget it. We should be happy if they don't beat us, burn us, torture us, insult us, discard us. That is all."

By the time she finished, Rita had Malini's attention completely. The older woman affectionately put an arm around Malini and said to her, "Let's go and meet Akshay. He might be feeling lonely.'

mrishbhai got to hear of his son's Amrishonal got to hear Rani were safely airborne. Malini told him. Not directly, of course. But through a comments source. "Your son's life is going

to be ruined," Kapal Singh told Amrishbhai at the latter's gigantic office in a South Bombay high-rise. "He is having an affair with that cheap actress, that harlot, Aasha Rani. She has already ruined other men and other marriages. Now, she has got her eyes on your son. You have to intervene and stop this ridiculous maamla at once. If bhabhiji finds out-that too, in the condition she's in.

Amrishbhai was enraged by the news. He had become extremely fond of his young bahu and had left instructions that in her delicate condition, her every wish was to be catered to. "An heir is to be born in our family," he'd said proudly at a board meeting at which Abhijit had been present When his father made the announcement Abhijit had modestly looked down into his lap and accepted the congratulations. He was glad for Nikita, but the news of the baby hadn't made much of a difference to him. In a way he'd felt relieved. "Thank God, yaar. Now at least she'll stay out of my hair. It will give her something to do,' he had informed his squash buddy.

After his visitor left Amrishbhai sat for a long while in his office. Now everything fell into place: his son's absences from his house in the evenings when he should have been with his wife; Nikita's reliance on him when she should have been looking to her husband for support; his son's casual acceptance of the fact that he would soon be a father. Amrishbhai's brows creased with fury. How could his son do this to his wife? Betray her, in her condition, with that slut who'd sleep with anyone provided the money was right? He needed to come up with a plan if he was to save the tamily honour, prevent the scan-

dal from blossoming. But most of all, he

knew it was only he who could save his young defenceless daughter-in-law. He instructed his secretary not to put through any calls. Strictly no interruptions or visitors. It took Amrishbhai three hours to arrive at a decision. Close to midnight he phoned his travel agent. Personally. The man jumped when he heard Amrishbhai's voice. "Get me on the next flight to New Zealand-any route, any airline, any class. It's an emergency.

Amrishbhai was already waiting at Auckland airport when Abhijit and Aasha Rani landed there, after a shop-till-you-drop stopover in Singapore. Abhijit was the first to spot his father standing in the lounge. "Oh my God!" he said clutching Aasha Rani's arm. "He's here!" "Who?" she asked carelessly. "My father! It's him. Bloody shit! How did he find out. Oh hell-I hope nothing has happened to Nikita or the baby. Why the [****] would he be here otherwise?" If Abhijit had had his way, he would have bolted from the scene. But that was impossible. Aasha Rani was nervous too, but didn't want to show it. She tried clinging to Abhijit's arm, but he shrugged off her hand and snarled, "Are you crazy? Take your hands off me. He's looking." Numbly he collected their luggage and walked slowly out to meet his iather.

Amrishbhai ignored Aasha Rani altogether. But he greeted Abhijit affectionately, "Don't worry-nobody is dead. Come on, let's go. Where are you booked?" Abhijit looked helplessly at Aasha Rani and stuttered, "Look dad, I can explain..." Funnily enough Aasha Rani was enjoying Abhijit's disconfiture. She felt removed from the whole scene as the tough old man put an arm around his son. who, she noted, almost dropped at the touch, and walked him away like a small

Six hours later Abhijit walked into their suite. "It's all over darling," he said in a small, broken voice. "There's nothing to explain or say. Dad has said it all. I'm exhausted. Please don't ask questions. I'm checking out. Dad wants you to stay here as long as you want. He's left instructions that all your bills be settled. He has also left you money for shopping and travelling. There'll be more when you get back to Bombay. His guys will be in touch with you. I don't have to tell you that this is

goodbye.

Aasha Rani looked at him wordlessly. She telt intensely sorry for the pathetic, scared man standing in front of her. She would have stayed out of Abhijit's life for free but since a gift package was being thrust at her she'd be a fool to turn her back on it. Coolly, she held out her hand. "All the luck in the world," she said, "and thank your father for his generous offer. Tell him I accept." ■

For his part, Akshay left

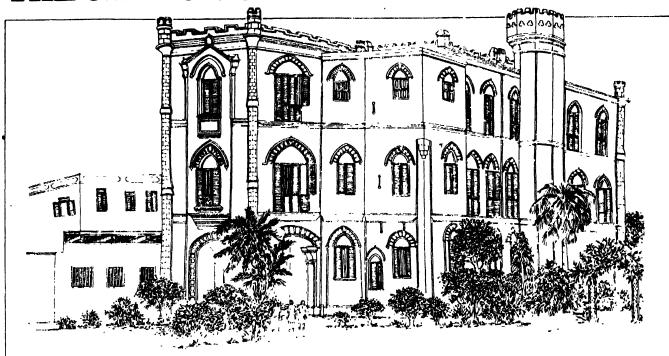
decision-making to Ajay 'Forget that woman,' Ajay told Akshay. 'She is no good for you; just a cheap gangster woman. I will get you better girls—younger, prettier. I'm not saying stay faithful to your wife. As India's biggest stud, it is your duty to have the world's most beautiful women. But leave that man-eater'

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HERITAGE D Rathin Mitra

THE JEWISH GIRLS SCHOOL



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settlers into Calcutta took place in the early 19th century. Since their arrival, the community in general prospered. However, not much attention

The main influx of Jewish

munty in general prospered. However, not much attention was given to educating the children, whether in religious or conventional subjects. The children of the poor, especially, were the worst sufferers. In fact, it was the Christian missionaries who initially started the education of Jewish children by setting up a free Christian Hebrew Missionary School. Those who could not join this school or other Christian schools were deprived of a formal education.

The state of affairs might well have continued were it not for an incident which came to the notice of Rev. E.M.D. Cohen, the greatest contributor to the Jewish community.

Hearing that a Jewish girl was ready to be converted to Christianity, he published a series of articles which shook the community and awakened in them a sense of responsibility. He appealed to the community for the setting up of a school exclusively for Jewish children. Benefactors like Moses Jacob Abeasis, Moshe Mayohas and R.M. Cohen readily responded to the appeal which resulted in the founding of Calcutta's first Jewish school, The Jewish Girls and Infants School, in

With the opening of an independent section for boys, the name of the institution was changed to Jewish Boys and Girls School. In 1885, this section merged with the girls' school and the institution was named simply The Jewish Girls School. The school faced financial constraints in its formative years. However, government and started pouring in since 1904 when it was recognised as a 'European School'. Under this code, education was imparted upto the middle school level. By 1911 this code was revised and the school was granted secondary status upto the Cambridge Junior School Certificate standard. Till then the school functioned from 8 Pollock Street in central Calcutta.

In 1926 the foundation of its new building was laid by Sir David Ezra through the efforts of Rev. E.M.D. Cohen who played a significant role in organising funds. The school (sketched above) is at present situated at 63 Park Street. It is open to all communities and boasts of a high standard with an able teaching staff.

INNER EYE Dejan Daruwalla



RIES

March 21--April 20 Journey and collaborations visits clinics and hospitals, introspec-

tion and assessment will characterise the week Romance will involve secret ties, rendezvous or liaison. The name of the game is expansion, investment, trans-actions and trading, say, on June 1 and 2. Travel will be an antidote to restlessness. Health may cause some worry. Renovation and decoration, children and hobbies provide a necessary safety valve to your conflicts and tensions.



AURUS

April 21- May 20 A wish fulfillment, a job well done, roman ce, socialising, business deals and transactions are the main trends of the week. Romance will be exciting. In finance, there will be excellent prospects of clinching a major deal and out of court settlements. Travel will give pleasure and profit. Your health will not trouble you. Now is the chance to make your home comfortable as well as



beautiful

EMINI

May 21 - June 20 Hard work, buying or selling, journey and negotiations, settlements, property, legacy, funds and joint finance, insurance and mortgage fill the week. In romance, you ought to work first and play afterwards. Communications and visits are emphasised. Regular habits will ensure good health Accidents are however not impossible Home and children



will provide plenty of excitement. **ANCER**

June 21-July 20 Creativity, journey, publicity, money and power are promised this week for Cancerians. Be bold. In romance, your heart will hum and thrum. Healthwise, all will be well. Home and children will keep you busy. There may even be a house move. Kids will delight you



July 21-August 21 The main trends are deals and investments, a home away from home, change of office, taking over of an industry or factory, loans and funds and intimacies in personal nahip. Romance will be of passion and sophistica-

















tion. Travel is almost certain. Health may pose a few irritants. Home and children will show great changes and bring you joy.



IRGO

August 22-Sept 22 Official engagements, marriage, business connections and ties despite opposition and journey with a possible stopover are the main trends Finance will involve links and trading, commission and agency. Extra health precauwhere you really excel.



Sept 23 -Oct 22

opportunities. .loh new openings in profesion and business, pets, good

IBRA

relationship with subordinates or colleagues are of extreme importance this week. Be amiable and savvy Health may involve pitfalls Love and work demand travel and you may expect visitors. Last month's additions and alterations at home, renovation, buying and selling continue.

BIRTHDAYS

tions may save the doctor's bill.

Travel is probable. The home is

May 26

Moon-Pluto conjunction, square Saturn: A bitter-sweet year but your work will be done. Health of parents and in-laws could

well be the fly in the cintment. Marriage, engagement, collaboration are the other strong possibilities for you.

May 27

Moon trine Venus: Expect more money. A happy family will make for year-long happiness. Those in buying, selling, trading, deco-ration and perfumes, chemicals and laundry, do wondrously well. In short, a year of all-round gains.

May 28

Full moon: Partnerships at all levels, the pragmatic to the platonic, is the legacy of this full moon. Those in sales, production, advertising, do specially well, but others also find this a good year for business or joy.

May 29

Mercury opposition Pluto: This opposition just means that expenses and health are the A journey at short notice is on the cards. Many of you will feel restless and that might have a psychological connotation and cause. Do not to worry too much.

May 30

Sun sextile Jupiter: An excellent time for those in corporations, bank, TV, large organisations, fundina and investments. However, do not try to lay down the law for others. Give them freedom and you will be loved.

May 31

Moon conjunction Uranus-Nepture: Funds, loans and a sickness in the family, could take their toll. But to be honest and fair your creative powers will be strong, imagination vivid, and there is no reason why you should not make it. A little courage, therefore, should do the trick.

June 1

Moon trine Mercury. This is a good trine, provided you follow up on things that matter, and do not leave it to blind chance or fate. A change in the nature and scope of your work is very likely. Investments, buying and selling, legacy and insurance, are the other sailent features.



CORPIO Oct 23-Nov 22

Matters move your way in romance, speculation, children and delivery, entertainment and the arts. Romance flourishes this Money multiplies, thanks to new openings and past contacts. You, will have time for leisure, pleasure and gains Health shows a marked improvement Home and children are pleasantly highlighted.



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23-Dec 20 An accent on property, be it house,

office, real estate, industrial site, warehouse, vehicles, and so on is the main trend this week. Monetary transactions certain Romance takes a backseat because you have too much work on your hands. Finance is the important factor now. A major move, shift or transfer is in the offing. Home and children deserve and demand your best.



APRICORN

Dec 21-Jan 19 Contracts, assignments, communica-

tion, journey, meetings, conference and good money are promised You will have your share of romance In finance, splendid opportunities and good news await you. Travel will prove lucky. You will be energetic, fully live. Home and children will give tremendous satisfaction if you don't expect the impossible.



QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18 Both romance and finance come to the fore

this week, in just the right measure. A family get together is predicted. Romance will keep you happy. Traders, manufacturers, distributors, agents will be in their element. Be careful about your health. News, views, messages, buying and selling may compel you to travel.

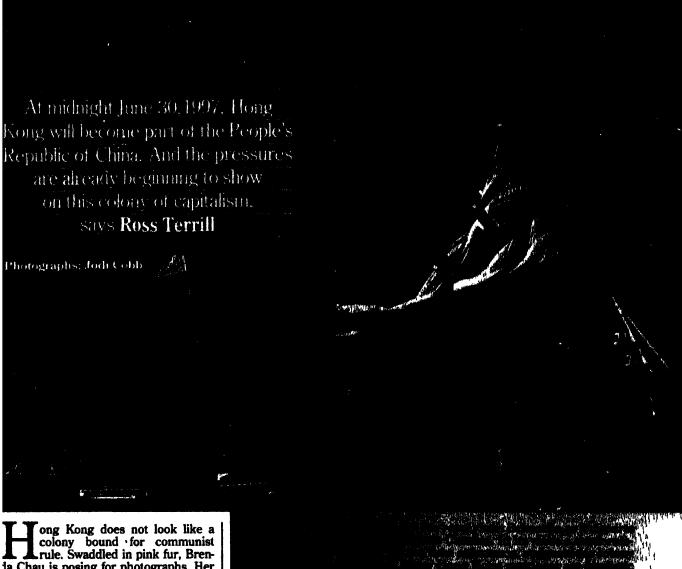


ISCES

Feb 19-March 20 Do not neglect the

personal and emotio nal side of your life now. You may feel religious impulses and psychic doors will open out. Romance will be just right and proper for you. Seize the chance to augment your income and build

resources. Health will not impede your progress. Visits and meetings are foretold. Your nome and children will provide plenty of satisfaction and security.



la Chau is posing for photographs. Her coat matches her pink Rolls-Royce-one of three Rollses she owns-and her pinksuited servant, sitting in the driver's seat at the Chau home in a luxurious suburb

As the camera whirs in the brilliant sun Brenda purses her mouth in pleasue, eyes gleaming. "I had a pink fur," she says, "so we got a pink Rolls to match it." Chau, a lawyer, and her husband Kai Bong are among the many citizens of Hong Kong who are riding high on the wave of prosperity that years of British ule have brought to the crown colony.

Their home is a cross between an Sgyptian tomb and a Hollywood set. Overlooking the harbour, it has a chandeier from Venice consisting of 7,000 sepa-

ate glass pieces.
Gold leaf shines on the walls. A toilet seat is inlaid with gold coins.

Many of Hong Kong's well-to-do are

increasingly apprehensive as a fateful date draws nearer. At midnight June 30, 1997, this colony, where capitalism and entrepreneurship reign today, will become part of the People's Republic of China. If life gets unbearable after 1997. if there is no freedom, we'll go, says Kai Bong Chau.

Where? "Summers in the united Kingdom, winters in Southeast Asia." he replies with a shrug.

To look at Hong Kong, writes Ross Terrill, " You would never know that anyone is worried about its future. Its blue harbour buzzes with boats, its white skyscrapers shoot into the green hills beyond and its workers wrestle with pneumatic drills, densolishing the old to make way for the new."

Despite the uncertainties of 1997, Terrill writes, "Hong Kong zooms ahead as if it intends to manoeuvrê past any 1 obstacle fate sets before it."

Hong Kong has announced ambitious plans for a new airport and a fivefold expansion of its container-shipping portthe world's second busiest—at a total cost of 125 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$16 billion US).

A dozen new hotels are under construction, luxury apartments are being built and sold for handsome sums and a third university rises-at a cost of \$ 2 billion (\$ 256.7 million US)-in the hills of the New Territories.

Phillip Bruce, spokesman for the new airport, grows impatient at doubts expressed about it. "What if China

loesn't like it?" people say. What if this, what if that! Bruce reasons: "Hong Kong vould never exist if anybody had asked what if questions—right from 1841. What if there's a revolution in China? What if there's a customs blockade? What if the dynasty fails? What if the apanese assault? What if the Amerians ry to give the place to Chiang Kai-shek? You know, you can't work on that basis."

And Hong Kong is a place that thrives in work. It stays busy making and spending money. "Still the tourists laden with shopping bags trudge down Nathan Road," writes Terrill, "the red double-lecker buses belch fumes as they weave imong the colony's 17,000 taxis, and wen at midnight weary vendors sell roast ducks that glisten as if coated with prown variish

People cut deals in 10-minute ferry ides or using the latest status symbol, a ellular telephone, while waiting at bus tops. They hammer and saw and drill hrough the night to construct a new amily shop.

"Even the escalators of the underground train system, I found, move at almost twice the speed of those in soston," Terrill writes. "If you are not aimble on the streets of Hong Kong, pity

ielp you."

On a recent visit he proffered \$ 100 for exchange at a currency window "As the oung clerk crisply processed the transaction he threw me a question 'How ong are you in Hong Kong?' Mildly surrised that a bustling currency salesman would have time for light conversation, I aid, 'Three days.' You're not chang-

ing enough money for three days,' he declared. 'Sir! How about \$ 1,000?"'

Hong Kong has the zip and toughness and cacophony of a Chinese Manhattan, in a 413-square-mile territory consisting of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories.

This cramped community of 5.8 million is the world's third largest financial centre and its 11th largest trading econom Its per capita-income, \$ 89,700 (\$ 11,500 US) is second, after Japan, in East Asia. Its life expectancy is higher than that of Britain or the United States.

"As 1997 approaches, the miracle of Hong Kong is called into question," writes Terrill "Will the communist dinosaur swallow this capitalist jewe!? While officials in Beijing have promised that Hong Kong's social and economic system will 'remain unchanged for 50 years,' that assurance is not widely trusted in the colony."

Martin Lee, Hong Kong's most prominent liberal, is worried. "The date of 1997 is looked upon as doomsday," Lee says. "The Chinese are more concerned with control than with prosperity They don't seem to care whether the goose will continue to lay golden eggs. They just want to control the goose."

David Chen, a veteran journalist at the South China Morning Post, is skeptical too. Chen, who fled to Hong Kong when Mao Zedong's communists took control of Shanghai more than 40 years ago, believes that his new home's success is inextricably linked to its status as a British colony. "It's because we had the



Union Jack," Chen growls, "and now the Union Jack is in tatters all over the Far East. I saw how Shanghai fell, and it could happen to Hong Kong."

Opinions vary widely Some, aware that Hong Kong has been written off prematurely in the past, are more hopeful, recalling previous clouds that floated low over the colony, only to disperse.

How communist rulers will deal with Hong Kong, whose public life reflects its money-mindedness, is anybody's guess.

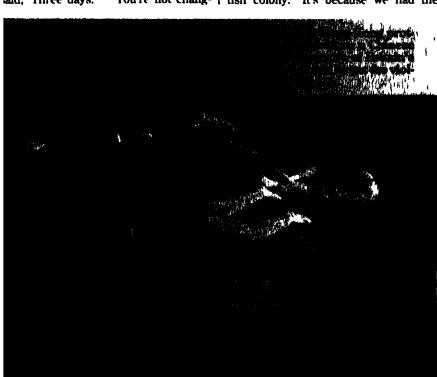
A justice of the Court of Appeal recently permitted a Japanese businessman found guilty of bribery to invest his \$ 4 million cash bail in an interest-bearing account.

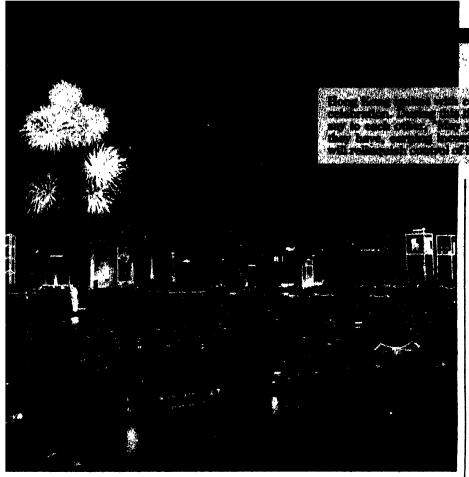
Even the pattern of crime suggests Hong Kong's preoccupation with money, as more crimes are directed

against property than people.

Although the colony has its seamy side-with drug addicts, homeless people and pockets of poverty. Terrill writes, "I found the Hong Kong of 1990 transformed from the raw-edged place I first saw in 1964. The modern colony has found success in electronics, finance, reexport trade, manufacturing services and tourism. Its middle class blossoms as yesterday's messenger becomes today's manager."

Instead of throwing themselves into politics -a path of public expression long denied to Hong Kongers-many just pile up extraordinary possessions. The colo-





ny's fax-machine sales are among the fastest-growing in the world. Hong Kong consumes more cognac, per capita, and boasts more Rolls-Royces, per acre, than any other place on Earth.

Unlike the Chaus, however, the impoverished men at 26 Fuk Tsun Street do not have the option of moving to escape communist administrators.

These men live in a smelly boardinghouse, sleeping in cramped cages that hold all their belongings and bedding because they cannot afford anything better.

The cages-which measure six feet long, 30 inches wide and 30 inches tall-are stacked three high and rent for an average of \$ 150 a month.

Cho, 57, bachelor who earns a disability pension, came from China to Hong Kong in 1949. He is one of some 5,000 citizens who live in such cases—the sick with the well, the snorers with the quiet, the few who go out to work with the many who do not.

Millions of Hong Kong's people arrived from China with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Even today many willing new hands come from China seeking work.

In the busy port of Aberdeen, Terrill met fishermen from the mainland who hire out as deckhands for trawlers, sleeping in tiny bunks and smoking pipes fashioned from bamboo and a Coca-Cola can. At the Unitex clothing factory in the New Territories he met a woman named Ai, who moved there in the 1980s to do piecework, sewing portions of brightly coloured garments six days a week for a monthly wage of \$ 5,000 (\$ 642 US)-\$ 7,000 (\$ 898) with overtime.

"In one month here we earn what we

would in one year in China," Ai told Terrill.

From the start Hong Kong beckoned the restless and the hopeless, the bold and the penniless, not only from China but also from beyond. Farmers, opium traders, sailors, pirates and fishermen came on foot and by sea, seeking to make money or a fresh start beside the "fragrant habour".

Hardheaded Scottish merchants, backed by the muscle of British gunships,

came in the 1840s and stayed.

On Nathan Road, the spine of Kowloon, you find enough tailors today to clothe half the world, Japanese tour groups following leaders with flags and bull-horns, Chinese communist emporiums hauling in hard currency from jade, silk and herbs, Australian tourists snapping photographs of Chinese advertisements for French perfume, and sailors from California and Marseille, France, looking for a massage done by nimble Chinese girls.

Beyond Kowloon is a surprising Hong Kong, the more rural and traditional New Territories. This is a place of monkeys and birds, camellias and azaleas,

temples and ancestral tablets.

Most Hong Kong folk are fatalists, agreeing that the colony needs luck as well as ingenuity in dealing with China.

But there are two varieties of fatalism. The cheerful fatalists say there is "nothing we can do"- and Hong Kong will work out its tie to the communists without disaster. The gloomy fatalists say there is "nothing we can do"-and anything Beijing touches, it will spoil.

Wary of the future, some leading Hong Kong businesses have taken steps to leave. In 1989 and 1990 the human drain increased dramatically, with more than 100,000 citizens leaving to live elsewhere, up from the yearly emigration figure of 20,000 that was normal in the early 1980s.

Many of those leaving are the best and brightest-well-educated people age 25 to 45. "There will be more, from the look

of things," writes Terrill.

"Another half a million Hong Kong people may well have left by 1997, but most ordinary folk will still be here, and they will accommodate. The choice is to emigrate or acquiesce, and since the vast majority do not possess the first option Beijing may find the tide of reality flowing in its favour."

(National Geographic News Service)

UKE D.S. Nahar zeroes in on fluttering beauty





MAKING THE WORLD SMALLER

times synonymous with prosperity and civilisation. As a matter of fact, the index of prosperity of a nation is perhaps greatly dependent on the communication facilities it offers-roadways, railways, telecommunication and so on. Civilised people have always communicated. The evolution of the modes of meaningful and long-distance communication started from the pre-historic age when geographically scattered people communicated through smoke signals. The different patterns of smoke indicated the message conveyed. Then came drum beating. Drummers sitting at hilltops relayed intelligence to distant places. The patterns of notes helped discriminate the messages relayed. These went on for centuries until people mastered the art of writing and exchanging information took place by pigeon post and later through the postal service.

The dawn of the 19th century suddenly

sparkled with the invention of the telegraph, the first milestone of modern communication, by Samuel Morse. Morse code, a combination of short and long duragy, was converted into its electrical counterpart and sent over wires. Over many years, voice communication passed into telegraphy. Other applications followed rapidly: telex for transport of typed characters, fax or facsimile for still images and hand-written texts, radio broadcasting for speech, and music and television for moving images and associated sound. Modern communication, the main focus of this article, has taken a dramatic upswing in the late Sixties following significant developments of the digital computer.

Basically there are two ways in which information or a message of any type voice, text or image can be transported



between a sender and a receiver through the telecommunication network, using appropriate media: analog or digital. Analog means that a continuous range of frequencies is transmitted. The sound one hears and the image one sees consist of such a continuous range. Digital transmission means that a stream of on/off pulses known as bits are sent the way the data travel in computer circuits.

The source (voice microphone or TV camera output) and the destination (hand-set, radio or TV set at home) of information are predominantly analog by nature and will always have the highest degree of penetration in the human society, that is, telephone and television users and many times more than the telex or computer users. At the same time, transportation of information over long distances using digital communication technique is inherently more reliable and of superior quality. So, considerable effort went to digital transporation of information to replace analog communication, taking it for granted that techniques existed to code analog information into digital form at source and decode in a reverse at the destination to suit the characteristics of terminal equipments. The technique of coding is broadly known as pulse code modulation.

How does the computer come so heavily into telecommunication? Let us illustrate by an example. You must have noticed that just a pair of lines goes out of your home telephone set. Yet you can talk to anybody you like. This means the exchange, the multiway switch, does the switching function depending on the number dialled. Most of the telephone exchanges in our country are still strowger or cross-bar exchanges. Whereas the digital switches of today are highly specialised computer programmed, specifically for the processing of streams of bits. For the most part such switches are neutral to what the streams represent—voice, text or images.

In this case the computer does the switching function, perhaps most efficiently. This is the real time application of the computer—meaning that the end-to-end connectivity is matured before the telephone conversation begins. The property of programmability, storage and speed of the computer is exploited in non-real time applications.

In electronic mailing, text in the form of a letter or report is entered into the source computer with the mailing code of the destination. The computer finally takes care of transporting the mail to its destination. For example, a message from Calcutta to New York is to be sent. The communication network is spread between these points with intermediate stations, say, at Bombay, Rome, Amsterdam and

London. It is quite likely that the entire link, that is, Calcutta, Bombay, Rome, Amsterdam, London and New York may not be free at any instant. The computer keeps hunting the availability of free link and keeps on sending the message in parts for storage at an intermediate station with all the book keeping of part of the message

Second, a unified approach in squeezing voice, data and image in digital format will help get rid of prevailing multiple standards in telecommunication. The approach is known as Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), a bold and feasible step towards modern communication. It is, of course, recognised that there are very



sent till the message reaches its destination with multiple hops. In computer terminology, this is known as packet switching of message.

The circumstances favouring digital transmission stem mainly from two factors. First, the reliability of high speed digital transmission at reduced cost.

large investments in existing telecommunication switches and other facilities in many parts of the world, and economic factors would make it impossible to change immediately to ISDN in many areas, particularly in developing countries. But ISDN is definitely going to be the vehicle of communication of the 21st century.

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

• Aayee Milan Ki Raat: Ebte (S.N. Banerjee Road, 241383), Basusree (S.P Mukherjee Road; 484808)-4 shows

Avinash Wadhwan and Shaheen are the lead pair in this film, directed by K. Pappu. Others costarring are Anupam Kher, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Aloknath, Paresh Rawal, Aruna Irani and Rita Bhaduri The music is by Anand Maland.

• Afsana Pyar Ka: Roxy (Chownnghee Place; 284138)—4 shows

Directed by Shahjahan and with music by Bappi Lahin, the film stars Amur Khan and Neelam.

• Benaam Badsha: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917)-4 shows.

Directed by K. Ravi Shankar and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the chief attractions of this film are Ani Kapoor, Juhi Chawla, Seema Deo, Rohmi Hat-Road, 471757)—4 shows. Sunjay Dutt, Sonam, Chunkey tangady, Satish Shah, Rakesh

Saranı; 281849), Mitra (Bıdhan Saranı; 551133), İndira (İndra Roy

Panday, Shilpa Shirodkar and Kader Khan comprise the main cast of this film, directed by Ajav

directed by Yash Chauhaan and the music is by Usha Khanna.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664)---4 shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Chandru play the lead in this recent box-office hit. Others co-starring are new-find Kanchan, Puneet



Issar, Pankaj Dheer, Danny and Pran. The film is directed by Sawaan Kumar and the music is by

• Yeh Aag Kab Bujhegi: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road: 242266)-4 shows

A film on the evils of the dowry system, starring Sunil Dutt, Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Shakti Kapoor, Ranjeet, Bindu and debutante Sheeba. The film is directed by Sund Dutt and the music is by

• Beder Meye Josna: Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7. One of the biggest hits m recent times, this Bangladesh production stars Chirameet, and Aniu Ghosh.

stars Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh. Also in the cast are Saifuddin, Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Soma, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarnath and Bulbul. The film is directed by Matiyur Rehman Panu and the music is by Abu Taber. • Palataka: Radha (Bidhan Sara-ni; 553045), Purns (S.P. Muthier-

The film is

SUN 26 MON 27 TUES 28 WED 29 THURS 30 FREST SAT

jee Road; 474567), Alochhaya (Beliaghata Main Road; 355059)-3 shows.

Directed by Sharan Dey and with music by Panchanan Chatterjee, the cast includes Prasenit, Babita, Rabi Ghose, Tarun Kumar, Sanghamitra Banerjee and Anil Chattenee.

Theatre '

• Anthony Kabiyal: Kashi Bıswanath Mancha (Canal West Road: 355598)-Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3pm & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Jnanesh Mukherjee, the main cast comprises Arindam Ganguly, Indrani Halder, Kali Banerjee, Ketaki Dutta and Dulal Lahim.

• Ghatak Bidaye: Star (79/3/4 Bidhan Sarani, 339369)—Thurs. at. 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

The play stars Madhabi Mukherjee, Tarun Kumar, Sreela, Majumder, Rabi Ghose and Soumitra Chatterjee, who has also directed the play and composed its music.

• Saheb: Circarena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street; 557213)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Tapas Paul stars in the title role. Also co-starring are Subhendu Chatterjee, Anamika Saha, Srirup Mitra, Bani Kumar, Manju Chakraborty, Bulbul Chowdhury, Chandrani Halder and Sovanlal Mukherjee, who also directs.

 Sudhu Bhalobasa: Minerva Theatre (6 & 6/1 Beadon Street; 554489)—Thurs. & Sat. at 6 30 pm; Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Special Events

26 May: 9.30 am; 27-29 May: 6 pm

Nazrul Janmotsav, organised by Rabindra Sadan, features Nazrul songs, dance-dramas and recitation from his works.

At Rabindra Sadan (Cathedral Road; 289978).

26 May: 6 pm

Layavinyas' first anniversary programme features an evening of medley and rhythm, with N.



The musical troupe, Layavinyas

Shanker (mridangam), P.V. Sairam (kanjira), Suresh Raman (ghatam), Koushik Chowdhury (tabla/khol), Debashis Sadhukhan (tablatarang), R. Srinivasan (tala sup-; port/mmdangam) and G.V. Rajan (violin and keyboard). Also, awards will be presented to upcoming talents in the field of music. dance and percussion.

At G.D. Birla Sabhagar (29 Ashutosh Choudhury Avenue; 479717).

26 May: 6 pm

Swar Vandana presents an evening of ghazals, featuring Munni Begum of Pakistan and Ratna Basii.

At Kala Mandır (Shakespeare Sarani: 479086/402197).

26 May: 6.30 pm

Anamika presents the Hindi play, Bari Buaji, based on Badal Sircar's original Bengali script and translated by Dr Pratibha Agarwal. Directed by Bunal Lath, the cast includes Vinita Rellin, Ajay Chaturvedi, Yogesh Suri, Anna Bhattacharya, Laxmi Prasad, Nutan Kumud and Dinesh Thakkar.

At Kala Mandir [Basement] (Shakespeare Saram; 479086/ 402197).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230. TORK: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230.

Bombay-Calcutta-BangkokTokyo: Arr. (5). Al-306 at 1915.
Dep. (5). Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) Al-309 at 1910; Dep (6). Al-309 at 2025

London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7) Al-132/132R at 1230

Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr (4). SU-537 at 1525

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep (4) SU-538 at 1725

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanoi: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0640, Dep. (2). SU-541 at 0750 Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-

Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2) SU-542 at 1615; Dep (2) SU-542 at

Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4). RJ-184

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5) RJ-185 at 0530

+ Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (1): RO-063 at 1115, Arr. (6): RO-063 at 1045, Dep. (1). RO-063 at 1230, Dep. (6) HO-063 at 1200 + Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest: Arr. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2015, Dep. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2130

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4): SQ-420 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr (2). SQ-416 at 1025 and Arr (4): SQ-420 at

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep (2, 4, 7): IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6). TG-314 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7) IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5) RA-214 at 1455

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr (1, 5). RA-213 at 1355.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-723 at 1340; Dep. (daily): BG-092 at 1220 and BG-094 at 1935. Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr (daily) BG-091 at 1140 and BG-093 at 1855. Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5)

BG-698 at 1950 Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5). BG-697 at 1910

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (2) KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2). KB-105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India 🐃 🧰 Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Al-1328

at 1230.

Indian Airlines 🧱

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily). IC-263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750; Arr. (daily). IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily). IC-176 at 0900 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr (daily) IC-274 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0800.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-765 at 1700, Dep. (6). IC-265 at 1700; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-766 at 2210, Arr. (6). IC-266 at 2205.

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6, 7): IC-771 at 0620; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6, 7): IC-772 at 1200

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily). IC-410 at 0615

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1545.

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6) IC-729 at 0730; Arr. (daily): IC-230 at 1630, Arr (1, 3, 5, 6). IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily): IC-741 at 0835 and IC-743 at 1330; Arr. (daily). IC-742 at 1055 and IC-744 at 1550.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep (2, 4, 6) IC-285 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6). IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1130, Dep (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1525. Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 1995.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (1): IC-221 at 1300, Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-221 at 1100; Arr (1): IC-222 at 1520, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-222 at 1320.

Caicutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-201 at 1400, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-202 at 1730.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep (daily): IC-255 at 0610, Arr. (daily) IC-256 at 1050

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-257 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7) IC-257 at

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-269 at 1650; Arr (3, 5, 6). IC-270 at 2040.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-269 at 1650, Arr (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-270 at 1910.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-277 at 1720, Arr (1, 2, 4, 7) IC-278 at 2210.

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6). IC-542 at 1000

Madras-Vishakapatnam-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-541 at

Vayudoot XXX

Calcutta-Agartala-Kailashahar: Dep. (2, 4). PF-729 at 0710, Arr. (2, 4): PF-730 at 1120

Calcutta-Shillong-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) PF-701 at 0710, Dep. (7): PF-701 at 1210,

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Taahkent-Calcutta. + No traffic rights on Calcutta-Bangkok-Calcutta

7 DAYS

Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) PF-702 at 1120, Arr. (7): PF-702 at 1620 Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep (7): PF-729A at 0710; Arr (7) PF-730A at 1140

Calcutte-Jamshedpur: Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) PF-717 at 0630, Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717A at 1330; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-718A at 1525.

Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-705 at 0855, Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-706 at 1300. Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5): PF-705A

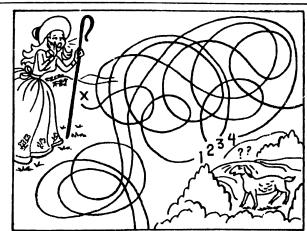
at 1250: Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-706A at 1635.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-707 at 0855; Arr. (1, 3, 5). PF-708 at 1150

11.0

			Trains						
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Up	Time	<u>Howrah</u>	Time	Dn	į		RAILWAY		
2311 3005	19-00 19-20	Delhi-Kalka Mail Amritaar Mail	8-30 8-05	2312 3006	Up	Time	<u>Howrah</u>	Time	Dn
3003	20-00	Bombay Mall via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Madras Mail	7-00	600
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mail via Nagour	8-00	800
		press via Gaya-Varanasi	.0 00	LOOL.	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	285
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8034	20-20	Ahmedebad Express	5-05	803
		Arr-Wed. Frl. & Sun.			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-5 0	8029
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex-	11-50	284
		press via Patna Dep-Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sun.			2611	22-35	press Bangalore Express	13-45	261
2301	16-00	Arr—Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat. Rajdhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302			Dep—Tues Arr—Sun.		2011
		week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	8014
		DepMon. Tues. Thurs. Frl. &			8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	801
		Sun.			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	800
		Arr-Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat. &			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	801
		Sun.			8007	22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8006
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkiy	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via Narai	7-45	841
		Dep—Tues. Fri. & Sat. Arr—Tues. Wed. & Sat.			2821	5-55	Dhauil (Bhubaneswar) Ex-	21-20	2822
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039	20-55	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-30	3040	_	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express Saturday only	13-45	260°
019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020		14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
021	22-00	Mithia Express	5-00	3022	1 —	14-10	Guwahati Weekiy Express	13-45	2045
557	6-00	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660	1		Thursday only		
317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	
029	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030	2000	EE-05	Terminus Weekly Express	22-13	_
035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45	3036	1		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032			Saturday only		
025	23-00	North Bihar Express	11.10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	2651
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		Arr-Mon. Thurs. & Sat.			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	
015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	20/7	££-00	Weekly Express (via Howrah	22,13	_
159	15-25	Chambal (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160	1		& Cuttack)		
		weekly Superfast Express			1		Wednesday only		
		Dep-Thurs. Sat. & Sun.			I _	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
		Arr-Tues. Wed. & Thurs.				17-10	Weekly Express (via Howrah	70	
171	15-25	Shipra (indore) Express Dep-Tues. & Wed.	7-30	1172			& Cuttack) Monday only		
		Arr-Sat. & Sun.			2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	
327	15-25	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Ex- press	7-30	3328			minus Weekly Express (via Howrah)		
		Dep & Arr-Mon. & Fri.			1		Thursday only		
049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr.—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patna Weekly Express (via	13-45	2609
		<u>Sealdah</u>					Howrah) Wednesday only		
143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	1		•		
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103	18-20	Bhagirathi (Lalgola) Express	10-25 4-30	3104	CESTAL	ii and 30	uth Eastern Railways trains, dia weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm (1 203000	(HOM I

JUNIOR WHIRL & Hall Kausman



PEEP SHOW! Bo Peep's sheep is lost again. Which one of four paths does it take to return? We'll let you decide.

• TREE FC/RUM! Name a tree suggested by each of these clues: 1. An open hand 2. Volcano's output 3. A stretch of shore 4. A senior citizen.

1. Palm 2. Ash 3 Beach (beach) 4. Elder

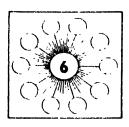


TONS OF FUN WORD TEST

All seven questions below concem words that end in TON. No. 1, for instance, is cotTON Let's see how quickly you can find the rest 1. What TON is a kind of cloth?

- 2. What TON does a sheep pro-
- vide?
 3. What TON rings a doorbell?
 4. What TON drives an engine?
- 5. What TON is a Chinese
- soup?
 6. What TON is an atom particle?
- 7. What TON is the US capital? Time: Two minutes

1 Cotton, 2 Mutton 3 Button 4 Praton 5 Won-ton 6, Proton 7 Weshington.



e SIX PACK! With number 6 in place at centre, below, you are asked to insert remaining numbers 1 through 11 so that all three-number straight-line rows total the same amount. What amount? That is for you to determine.

P.S.: It's under 21. How quickly can you puzzle out an answer?

Clockwise, 1.2, 3.4, 5, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, totaling 18 across, is one way and there are many possible variations

HOCUS-FOCUS

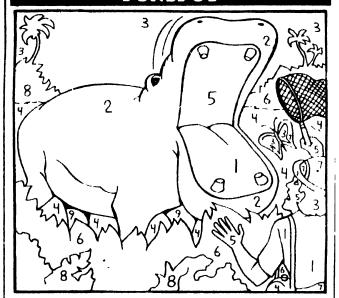




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences: 1. Arm is moved, 2. Neckline is different, 3. Fence section is lower. 4. Cap is reversed, 5. Paint can is reversed 6. Dish is missing.

FUNSPOT



MAN OR MOUTH! Who'll nab the butterfly, man or hippo? Add colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk. brown. 8—Dk. green. 9.—Black.

SPELLBINDER

Possible twosome: Moth, rely

THEN score 2 points each for all found among the letters or more found among the letters

MOTHERLY

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words



QUIZ | Neil O'Brien

dit Ray from Calcutta reports on the Sportsworld Round Table Quiz for the Dunlop Spectrawide Trophy

"I am a sports and a quiz fan which is why I go on an annual three-day 'pilgrimage' to the Dalhousie Institute. This year, too, there were about 500 other 'devotees' who assembled to witness the most well-attended and talked-about quiz of the year—the Sportsworld Round Table Quiz for the Dunlop Spectrawide Trophy.

"This year, too, about 150 teams participated. This year, too, there were 12 hours of exciting, entertaining and competitive quizzing. This year, too, the Jadavpur University, Vae Victrus (Jayadita Gupta, Soumyadip Chowdhury, Jaideep Mukherjee and Joy Bhattacharya) foursome were worthy winners of the Dunlop Spectrawide Trophy.

"The first two days of the quiz saw serious, hardcore quizzing with eight teams qualifying for the finals from Calcutta. They were holders JU (VV), JU (Others), DI (A), Don Bosco (Park Circus), Hindi High School, Hindustan Thompson Associates



11th Question: Why did Julius Caesar wear a crown of laurels almost constantly in public? (Subhadip Nandy, Flat 3, First Floor, 30 Sukanta Sarani, P.O. Bhadrakali, Dist. Hooghly, Pin: 712232)

Ans: In order to hide his increasing baldness from his friends and the citizens of Rome.

(HTA), Duncans and Leo Club of Salt Lake. They were joined by St Michael's School, winners of the Patna round, organised by Patna Round Table 29. These nine teams faced questions from Tiger Pataudi and his Sportsworld team, Neil O'Brien and Barry O'Brien, Guest quizmasters included Calcutta's 'Roger Milla' Subrata Bhattacharya, world billiards champion Manoj Kothari, Bengal cricket stars Arun Lal, Pranab Roy, Sambaran Banerjee, Sourav Ganguly and former India hockey captain Gurbux Singh. A pleasant surprise came in the form of a question from actress Debashree Rov: 'Which of my co-stars in Mahabharata holds the record for the fastest boxing knockout in Maharashtra? (Ans: Firoz).

"Besides the audio and video rounds this year, it was the live round which really took off with two midget wrestlers demonstrating a 'Full Nelson', Shivaji Ganguly breaking tiles with a turning 'Round House Kick', a little jockey and a pony doning a particular owner's colours and two promising footballers play-acting a 'Nutmeg' (when the ball goes between a defender's legs).

"But don't get me wrong! This quiz, organised by Calcutta Central Round Table 38, besides being a lot of fun did not go away from the serious business of quizzing. In the finals it was (HTA) who took the early lead But it soon became a four-cornered contest. Finally, JU (VV) pulled away in the penultimate round while JU

(others) finished strongly in the second place. DI (A) was third. HTA was declared the most sporting team, with St Michael's, Patna bagging the prize for the most promising team and Ballygunge Siksha Sadan deservedly winning the prize for the best girls' team.

"Mr Srivastav, managing director of Dunlop, Tiger Pataudi, editor of Sportsworld, and tabler Rajesh Sunda, chairman of Calcutta Central Round Table 38, distributed the prizes. And there were a lot of them—the Dunlop Spectrawide Trophy, a year's subscription to Sportsworld, Titan classic wristwatches, Walkman's, dinners from Taj Bengal, Grand Hotel, Park Hotel and a whole lot of other goodies

"The fun, the stars, the questions, the tamasha, will all be remembered when you think about this super quiz. But will you ever forget the spontaneous gesture of affection when Arun Lal nugged struggling long distance swimmer Sanjivan Mondol? Barely eking out a living but still finding time to compete, Sanjivan was honoured for his contribution to sport."

QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the complete title of the *Origin of Species* by Darwin? (Biren Sen, Ranchi 1)
- 2) What is a 'Rabbit Punch' in boxing? (P.C. Barua, Dhanbad)
- 3) Who was conducting the special concert in Jerusalem (Israel) in the last week of February '9I even after the town was hit by Scud missiles by Iraq? (Sushil Kumar Poddar, Calcutta 29)
- 4) Confessions of an Advertising Man, first published in 1963, is still considered the copywriter's Bi-

- ble. Who is the author? (Prem Agarwal, Rourkela)
- 5) Who said, "Better give your path to a dog than be bitten by him in contesting for the right. Even killing the dog would not cure the bite"? (Arun Purohit, Calcutta 7)
- 6) What is 'Operation Rakshak'? (Sonal Goel, Tinsukia)
- 7) What is 'Teletext'? (M. Murali, Hooghly)
- 8) "When you win the toss, decide to bat. If in doubt, think hard and elect to bat," Who said this? (Rizwanur Rahman, Calcutta 19)
- 9) What is 'razzia'? (Rahmat Ali, Calcutta 14)

10) Jahangir Khan, the Pakistan squash star, owns a company. Name it. (Subrata Haldar, Hooghly 3)

ANSWERS

the TV set to obtain the information.

8) Sir Don Bradman.

9) Raid, plundering or slave-collecting expedition originally as carried out by African Muslims.

10) Ursquashable Ltd.

larly known as intext, would give TV viewers upto-date information about news, train and flight timings, commodity and share prices, weather forecast, etc. A decoder will be reduired to be attached to the TV set to obtain the information.

6) Name given to Indian Army operations in Punjab simed at stopping illegal trans-border movements.
7) Teletext service, popu-

5) Abraham Lincoln.

3) India-born Zubin Mehta led his larael Philiharmonic Orchestra without caring for danger from the Scud missiles flying around to pay tribute to his mentor, the late Leonard Bernstein, even as the restricted audience of 300 kept their gas masks handy.

S) A blow to the back of the neck; it is a foul in boxing.

 On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection Or the Preservation of Favoured Races.

COMICS







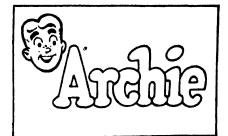






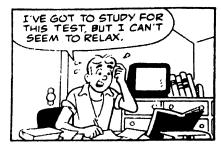
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MOOSE MILLER By Bob Weber

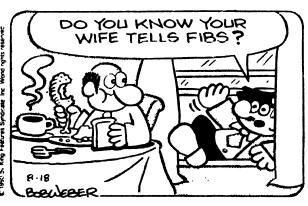












THE LOCKHORNS

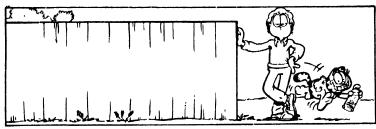


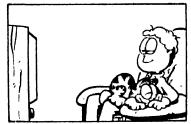






GARFIELD By Jim Davis









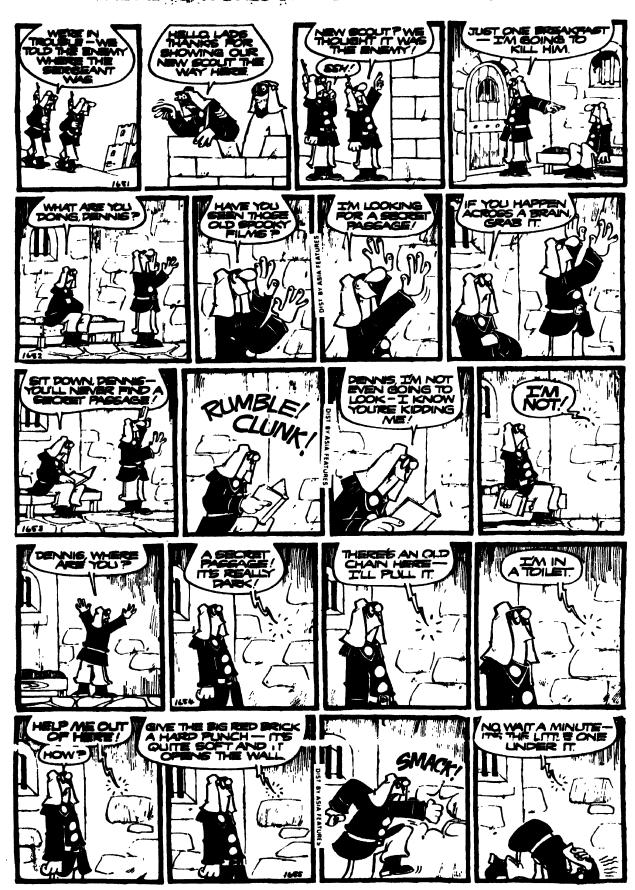








THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



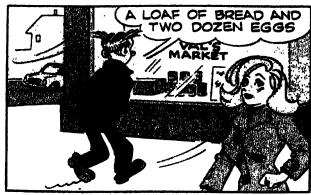
















You've already missed two square cuts." So said the burly gateman standing at the Grace Road grounds in Leicester. This obscure 'Peter' looked like a local scribe as he rushed with a typewriter in hand and eventually perched himself in the press box.

Last summer, Leicestershire were playing a four-day county match against Worcestershire at home. A grudge

Graeme Hick, a

first-class megastar,
nakes his Test debut for
England against the
mighty Windies in the
first week of June

match of sorts as in the previous encounter the latter had won. In a particular over from Winston Benjamin, who was representing the hosts, the first ball pitched outside the off stump and was steered to the mid-off boundary. The next delivery, a roaring bouncer, was despatched to the long-leg fence. The umpire signalled a six.

Actually that was a '12'. Chris Lewis was treated with more disdain in the next over. A powerful square cut had almost broken the windowpanes of the adjoining members' bar.

Besides Viv Richards and Gordon Greenidge, nobody could have played such unbelievable shots that had so much power and precision. One was left wondering about the identity of this tall, well-proportioned batsman.

Finally, the press box scorer came to the rescue. He announced, "Gentlemen, please note that's Hick's 50 in 58 balls." Graeme Hick went on to complete his 100 in a manner which suggested he was playing against the local school team. Hick, however, an anaediately after getting that first class 100 and



Worcester newsmen were led to a discussion as to whether Hick was "completely off mood."

But then that's Graeme Hick. A megastar even before he was born. The man has not played a single International till date and yet draws large crowds. Macmillan has already published his book, Hick N' Dilley Circus, which, understandably, has been a bestseler. There were also discussions in the press box whether after breaking Bradman's record (youngest man to score 50 first class 100s) his fees for an interview would rise.

The Zimbabwe-born 6 ft 2 in. tall batsman qualifies to play for England this summer. On March 31, 25-year-old Hick completed his seven-year qualification period for England. His baptism by fire will be at Headingley against the mighty West Indies in the first week of June. Though he did not have a very successful stint with Queensland in Australia, the Graeme Hick euphoria is still there. The English Test and County Cricket Board officials are too eager to promote him to the centrestage. They hope he will not only transform the playing fortunes of an unsuccessful team, but also revitalise the Board's profits. But will he be able to maintain the same proficiency at the Test level? Arguments and counter arguments are on. Malcolm Marshall, for one, tends to think he will sort out Hick easily. Imran feels, like Zaheer, Hick may not be very effective because he is too much of a front-foot player. According to Imran, the reluctance to go onto the back foot could pose a lot of problems for him. Especially on fast and bouncy tracks. On the other hand, people like Botham, Lillee and Gooch feel an outstanding Test career awaits Hick.

Yorkshiremen detest superlatives. And yet one Yorkshireman who has played some cricket is all in praise for Hick. "Technically perfect. Tremendous batsman," he

And Geoff Boycott should-know what he is talking about.

Gautam Bhattacharya



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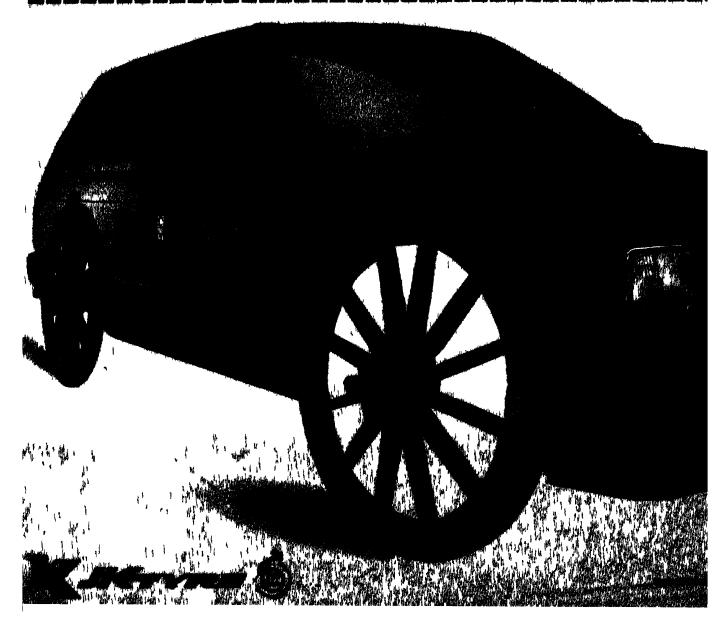
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والمراق والمرا



Amitabh, an Actor?

The piece on Amitabh Bachchan ('The Artiste Within', May 5) was very disappointing, lacking any real analysis.

The honouring of Amtabh with the national award as best actor for Agneepath has shown that the film society movement has lost its prestige. If by a "towering performance" the jury meant the meaningless blustering and roaring of the megastar with a tedious, broken a trashy film then I feel any actor of any masala film deserves a national award.

Even Mithun, often denounced as a bad actor, was thought fit enough by Mrinai Sen to cast in his Mrigayaa years ago for which he won the national award. He thus proved that even a megaartiste can be India's first megastar, a title Amitabh got much later. Even in Agneepath, Mithun has performed much better than Amitabh.

Devojyoti Bhattacharjee, Silchar

© Congratulations to Amitable. But did he really deserve the award? For a role in which even his fans did not like him?

Prabal Guha,
Dibrugarh



Amitabh Bachchan: How can he...!

In fact, Mithun acted far better in the role of a south Indian narialpaniwala. Arnab Baul,

Bongaigaon (Assam)

- M Anil Grover has showered praises on Amitabh for an award he has won not solely due to his performance, but largely due to his well known manipulative tactics and Rekha Sahay, a self-confessed fan of Amitabh who, after marriage to the L&B minister, Sabodh Kant Sahay, managed to become a jury member even though she has non-existent acting ability herself.
- People who saw the film are bound to raise their eyebrows at the award. If Agneepath was good enough for a national award, then why wasn't he so honoured for his earher super films like Zangeer, Sholsy or Aakhree Raista? Manchar Mandal, Nabadwin
- Agneepath was based on routine underworld drama with little repeat value. The hero's role was made less appealing and the music was a big letdown. Rameshpal Tewari, Calcutta

King of all Mayericks

The cover story on The Mavericks' (March 10), failed to cover the King of Mavericks, Devi Lal. And I think Maneka Gandhi should have got more respect from the writer. The firmness and boldness with which she stands today is praiseworthy.

Sandeep Dasgupta, Rourkela

M Your article proved that our democracy is not of the people, by the people and for the people, but defined, decided and controlled by these men in politics who are otherwise useless to society. These shameless opportunists make the people suffer under the camouflage of the Constitution and it is a pity that we cannot refrain from exercising our franchise. Riaz all Ahsam,

Calcutta Erotica?

The essay on tourist guides ('Crash Course', March 17) said nothing relevant in the first half. And words like "erotic interests of Khajuraho" are nothing but a cheap gimmick by the author to draw attention to her verbosity. It was just thinly disguised prurience. Ranojit Kumdu, Bhubaneswar

Lata is Lata

The bottom line of the cover story, 'Voice of a New Generation' (March 3) was that Lata is Lata, and I fully agree with you.

She is the nightingale of India and God's gift to the country. Even after 40 years of singing she retains the inimitable freshness of voice as is evident in recent films like Jekin and Manne.

films like Lekin and Henna.

I think it is foolsh to think that any Anuradha, Sapina or Kavita can ever replace her.

Sinchana Dhar,

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

2 JUNE 1991



In the recent athletics meet in Calcutta, Ashwini Nachappa proved to be the fistest woman around. And, wow, what a woman! What is it that makes her tick? Her track talent, ritzy looks, or simply the special vibes she has with the press?

Sophia Loren, the woman who had it all, was honoured with a special Oscar for her contribution to films. A love-lorn look at her

Soon, there could be a water war in the gulf. A startling report

SECTIONS

10 Inner Eye

17 Heritage

12 Leisure 20 7 Days

23 Junior Whirl

24 Quiz

25 Comics

30 Candid Camera

Cover Ashok Das

Nasa Alfak

THE OLD AUGUST AUGUS

ambhakta Hanuman was the first film I saw without a chaperon. We had migrated from what is now known as Bangladesh. Nehru was in Delhi and Dr B.C. Roy in Calcutta. The film on Hanuman, in the metaphorical sense, hit me in my solar plexus. The capers of Hanuman and Narad bowled me over as well as my younger brother, who accompanied me to the tin shed which passed for a cinema hall in the mofussil town where our family had settled.

Jeevan, the character actor,

but could hardly follow properly. Girlfriends were still a rarity for us and for that we had to wait till our university days.

The first non-Hollywood film that we saw was, perhaps, Bitter Rice with Silvana Mangano, Vittorio Gassmann and Raf Vallone in stellar roles. We liked Silvana since she was somewhat different from the other Hollywood heroines. And the subject of the film could be understood by boys in their teens living in one of the Third World countries. But she was a passing dream, or

rather, she prepared us for the phenomenon that was Sophia Loren.

Sophia was something totally different. Scantily clad, her gorgeous figure appealed to us in the film, Boy on a Dolphin in which Alan Ladd was the hero. She was not beautiful in the conventional sense. But, boy, what a figure she had! In the film she looked like Venus emerging out the blue-green Adriatic. Her hourglass figure, sensitively rounded knees and that original pout breaking into unexpected smiles devastated us. Not to speak of her eminently erotic eyes.

Despite the sensuality about her, even during those immature days one intuitively felt the hardships she had passed through to achieve stardom. That she was an illegitimate child and the mistress of an Italian movie moghul, Carlo Ponti, we came to know much

later. But the rapport that was struck between the star and her admirers still lingers.

Thereafter there was an avalanche of Sophia Loren films. Some good, some bad; but in all those films she shone above all. She was remarkable with Clark Gable in It Started in Naples. The girl from the gutters played a Hapsburg princess in A Breath of Scandal who falls in love with American lohn Gavin.

The film which proved her acting qualities best was, perhaps, Two Women, where she played the role of an Italian woman with a young daughter trying to survive during the fag end of the war in Italy. Even the French superstar, Jean-Paul Belmondo, was reduced to second fiddle in the film. It was a film where the camera did not only focus on her celebrated decolletage, it allowed Sophia to draw on the resources of her own sufferings

TARUN GANGULY remembers his boyhood heartthrob, **Sophia Loren**, who was recently honoured with a special Oscar for her contribution to films

who had played the role of Narad, had a sardonic smile hanging around his lips and he would swim into the sky at the slightest hint of trouble. And this was something inexplicable to we mofussil boys.

Those were the days before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens. Clothes dryers, air-conditioners, drip-dry clothing and man in the moon were still a distant future. And a trip to the cinema halls used to cost us just six annas each.

From the capers of Hanuman and Narad, we graduated to Nargis-Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar-Madhubala, as well as to Uttam Kumar-Suchitra Sen by the time we went up to college. Roman Holiday, starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn, was released at Tiger around 1953. We saw Cary Grant in Arsenic and Old Lace, and were introduced to Alfred Hitchcock in Strangers on a Train at about the same time.

The English films were mainly from Hollywood though there were a few from Pinewood or Shepperton Studios. The Hollywood heroes and heroines were larger than life, and they spoke in a twang which at times we could guess,

With Marlon Brando in Charles Chaplin's A Countess from Hongkong



dother Romildane. Mother Komi-a stricing double of Greta Garbo in looks, and a gifted pismist. Father, a travelling salesman, Riccord Sociolore.

The tenement house

by lived hi was shared by wir families. Their own had eight members, grand-parents included. Sophia was used to going burefeet. It was a poor vallage they lived in. In Poszuoli, near Naples, life was very hard.

Sophia lived through the Second World War, Suffered. Went latenty. Saw people shot. In the aftermath, she emerged a survi-for—a "tilliptions" young

iri who won a beauty contest at 14. Shy, serious, seemingly older than her years. Working as an extra in films. Early screen tests were unpromising. She had, however, caught the eye of film producer Carlo Ponti. She had taken the name Sophis Lazzaro but in 1962 Carlo changed it to Sophis Lores. That stuck.

Aids 1963 gave her a breek and Gold Of Naples

is 1955, where Vittorio De Sica cast her as a Neapolitan shopkeeper, brought her recognition as a serious actress within Italy. She began to appear with Mar-cello Mastroianni, She began to become a photo-grapher's dream. She be-came Carlo's mistress and FF Grant offered to take her to the altar. She refused Grant and married

Ponti by prospy.

Boy on a Dalphia was.
1957, just after The Price and the Passion, where sh was Frank Sinetta's Spe ish mistress who is attracted to Cary Grant. Desire Under the Bins, 1958 saw her with Authory Perkins and Burt Ivea. Houseboat, in the same year, was again a Carr-Grant movie. Some and Cary had a movie weeding where they looked great together.

Black Orchid 1959 won her the best actress award at the Venice Film Featival. But 1961 was a more important year. La Clociara or Two Women was an incredibly moving film. About a woman and her young" daughter trying to survive the war and raped by a gang of soldlers. That was her first Clasar. And the first ever given to an actress in a foreign language film.

The Fall of the Roman Empire, 1964. Suphis as the daughter of Alec Conness, a man sine Operation Ca 1965, a Dutal Judith, the Jowish wife o war criminal, ussisting israeli underground 1969, the Unit Press Association For Curps gave her the Go Globe. In 1969, she came a mother.

Sophia: Living and Lo mg was how they call ography. She was of a fortune of i lines. Her in

during the war. She won the Oscar tor the film, the first ever given to an actress in a foreign language film.

But the films which made her very popular in Calcutta were Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, and Marriage Italian Style. In both the films. she had Marcello Mastroianni as her hero, and the two in tandem took all filmgoers by storm. The films were released here sometime in the mid-Sixties when Sophia was at her sensuous best.

In fact, the body chemistry between the two was for everybody to see on the screen, and the vibes were never recaptured in the films she acted Man of La Mancha later. Peter O'Toole in the early Seventies, was an exciting film, but somehow it did not click. Another striking movie was Sunflower. Her last picture of note was, perhaps, A Special Day with Mastroianni in the late Seventies, where she played the role of a slatternly housewife and he, a homosexual. The pair have an alliance en passant during the days of Mussolini. Both of them were superb, but the film was their last bow together.

In the past decade or so, Sophia has quietly withdrawn from the silver screen, but her memory still lingers in the hearts and minds of those who had seen her in her halcyon days. The undulating and wanton walk, the ever- pouting lips, the voluptuous figure, the teasing smile and that penetrative look that could seduce you in a glance, still remain fresh. How this girl from the slums could look all elegance and grace, with a regal air about her with such perfection still baffles us.

The American film industry made itself proud this year by awarding her a special Oscar for her illustrious career. A vulnerable Sophia, almost in tears, could only say, "Thank you, America", while accept-ing the honour. We, admirers across the seas, can only say "Thank you, Sophia" for everything she gave us: gaiety, beauty, talent, love and romance when our world was rich and young





Exemplary Ruling

The Brazil Supreme Court recently struck down "the legitimate de-

fence of honour" by men who use this as a strategy to get acquitted after killing "unfaithful" wives. The court ruling said such defence ploys could not be employed in murder cases "because honour is a personal value that cannot be restored with the blood of an unfaithful wife. In this type of crume, what is defended is the pride of the man that sees his wife as property."

The Supreme Court

spokesman, Raecio Pires, said the judges had decided that the defendant, one Joao Lopez had simply killed for revenge, after having discovered his wife with another man in a hotel at Apucarana, southern Brazil.

Compare this to the stand of certain nations which do not hesitate to flog women in public for adultery. While marital infidelity is certainly not worth boasting about, one fails to understand why particular countries (and we

all know which ones) choose to inflict severe punishment on an adulteress, but allow a man indulging in a jig down the primrose path to promiscuity to go scot free.

We hope the next National Convention on Women's Studies will take up the issue since the new global order has been exerting pressure on women's movements in developed and Third World countries, and sexist laws are no longer accepted at face value.

Dishing it Out with Elan

Men may take the cake when it comes to being the world's greatest chefs, but a woman's touch makes all the difference when serving culinary delights. Especially when it comes to mouth-watering puchkas, the ladies of Calcutta are a cut above the rest—and one lady in particular.

Clad in a printed cotton saree, a ready smile lighting up her face, Durga Sau occupies a corner adjacent to Vivekananda Park in south Calcutta, off Southern Avenue, irrefutably the city's "golguppa zone". She also occupies a corner in the hearts of a myriad teenagers and adults, not to mention school children, who flock to her for their favourite brand of dahi puchkas.

Having stayed in Calcutta for a good many years now, Durga is conversant with the local language. She stays in Tollygunge with her husband and three childrentwo daughters and a son, and accompanies him with her basket of crisp savouries most evenings, especially on Sundays. Her husband first took to this trade on arriving from his native Bihar. She joined him to supplement his income, but has stayed on out of sheer novelty that the taste of independence brings.

Of course, things have not

always run smoothly. The other puchka sellers of the particular locality objected to this dual-income scheme. When a bhelpuri vendor went home, Durga occupied his place. But human nature being what it is, she refused to budge when he returned. So the enemies grew, but the couple are quite adamant. While her husband claims to be "permanent," (in his little corner), Durga is considered a "temporary. But her friendly nature and delicious churmur have earned her a good reputation. As one puchka gourmet staunchly claimed: "I always go to her, maybe because



Durga Sau: Puchkas with a woman's touch

Sudipta Bhattacharjee

her puchkas are good, but mainly because she is a woman."

fire leaps and flickers long shadows on the walls. The bodies huddle together as the wind shivers and moans eerily outside. It is late and dark and night, with only the shadows moving outside the circle of firelight and the shadows might belong to anything...to some disembodied horroto a ghost.

The fear of ghosts is as old as time, people think, but oddly enough, there is no mention of ghosts in the earliest Sanskrit texts. Ghosts do not haunt the Vedas, or stalk the pages of religious parchments. The only terrifying spirits are the 'ungods'-gods fallen from grace and turned into demons by a later irreverent age.

The Sanskrit word bhoot means element and is used to refer to air, earth, water or fire without any undertones of the supernatural.

The first reference to ghosts as the souls of human beings comes late in Sanskrit literature and the first ghost described is, almost inevitably, the brahmadaitya, the ghost of the erring brahmin, complete with sacred thread and pigtail. Once the reticence on the subject is broken, a whole pantheon of ghosts make their appearance, obviously influenced by popular legends, gossip and folk lore.

They were mostly female, these other early Sanskrit ghosts. A host of sad widows in white gave birth to the petni, who lurks in wait in the shadows of sheora trees. The shankhchunni was a variation on the petni theme, known for the ominous tinkle of her white conch shell bangles. In Hindi, there was the churel, the ghost of a woman who had died in childbirth and who slipped from hut to hut at night, seeking restlessly for a child to replace the one she had lost. Along with these spirits came some odd, disreputable remnants of Shiva's entourage, who were neither ghost nor demon, but some terrifying compromise between the two.

Banabhatta's famous Yamapata gave pictorial presence to these spirits on palm leaf parchment. And, all at once, it became intellectually correct to be frightened of ghosts. Phrases for this fear haunt the intellectual jargon of the time accompanied by a documentedly convincing explanation. Brahma, it is said, opened his eyes on an empty void called the world and realised he was alone. Shuddering in terror, he created mankind to keep him company. From this terror of Brahma's, said the pundits, from this loneliness, came the fear of ghosts.

Nothing very much further occurred in the supernatural world thereafter until the 18th century, when the Betala Panchabingshati loosed a whole gibbering horde of popular ghosts. The best

GHOSIS

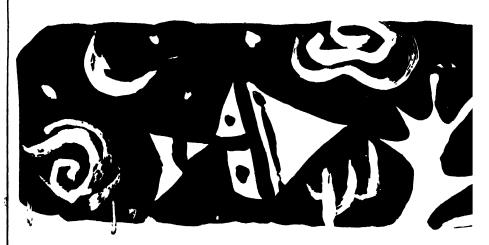
There are all kinds, as

Anjana Basu discovers

known of these, of course, was the betal, a short winged spirit with a passion for hanging upside down from trees in cemeteries and with relative draughtily lodged in coffins in Transylvania.

human prey with a trapper's net or basket.

Those who died by hanging became golashis trailing lengths of rope, desperate to persuade other people to hang themselves and so swell their dreadful ranks. A ragged, filthy, whining spectre called the kani pesachi washes her tattered clothing again and again by ponds and streams. Ekthengos, for some reason best known to themselves, hop after their prey on one leg. Jotadhari bhoots haunt the ponds in which they drowned, peering out of the water and trying to drag



However, like the vampire, the betal is a literary exception to the rule. Ghosts in Bengal are usually larger than life, the largest being the tal, who takes his name from his palm tree trunk sized feet. The list of ghosts currently available in Bengal is as long and complex as the list in the famous song from Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne.

According to ghost watchers, the pesach is the most common of the spirits. So common, apparently, that no one has been able to list its habits or its habitat. Then there is the kandhakata, a headless horror which hops out of tamarind trees onto the shoulders of unwary passersby. The kandhakata does not feature in any folk tales, but appears to be a locally imagined shudder in the night. Bel trees belong to the brahmadaitya, while the guashi lurks in thickets hunting for

swimmers under to keep them company.

People who had treasure to hide were often known to bury a child alive with it, in the hope of creating a jakh, or a ghostly guardian, though jakhs were often known to part with their gold in cases of genuine need.

Years of Muslim rule in Bengal created the mando bhoot, the only non-Hindu member of the tribe, a tall dark lungi clad form that exists nowhere else in the country and is not found in Islamic literature either.

While all these ghosts are to be found in whatever rural grove or thicket you choose to look for them, Calcutta has another, better documented series of spectres that linger in their frock coats and crinolines in the last nooks and crannies of the British Raj.

Midnight, in the depths of winter. All of Calcutta is under its blankets, shrouded from head to foot. A coach and four scrunches up the gravel outside Hastings House. The door creaks open and a thin intense figure fades into the portico and burns like a feverish light from room to room searching, restless...or so the story goes of Warren Hastings' nocturnal activities after his death.

While he was alive, Hastings persistently sought after a missing desk. Cotton's Calcutta Old and New quotes a letter he wrote to his private secretary in July 1785. "It pains me," Hastings wrote, "to recur to the subject of my bureau. I have not received any intelligence from you or Larkin about it."

The bureau was an old black wood one and apparently contained two portrait miniatures and some private papers, presumably belonging to Baroness Imhoff, Hastings' wife a woman who caused quite a deal of scandal in her time. Hastto be en deshabille..but..wore round her throat like a comforter, a long strip of cloth." She materialised out of a bedroom, passed through the hall and vanished. What the strangers did, thereafter, is not recorded.

The Government Art College is rumoured to be haunted by the ghosts of two English principals who committed suicide. The first, Havell, experimented with tantra until he drove himself insane and then jumped off the College roof. Students working late, or sent up to the roof on dares, claim they can hear footsteps and knocks at the windows and smell the sharp pungency of incense.

The second principal, Percy Brown, hanged himself in the first floor quarters of the principals of the time. To his ghost is attributed the feat of having disrupted a Chintamoni Kar sculpting session. Kar was copying a bust of Brown which, the story goes, kept averting its face at critical moments.

Even though a modern age tends to be



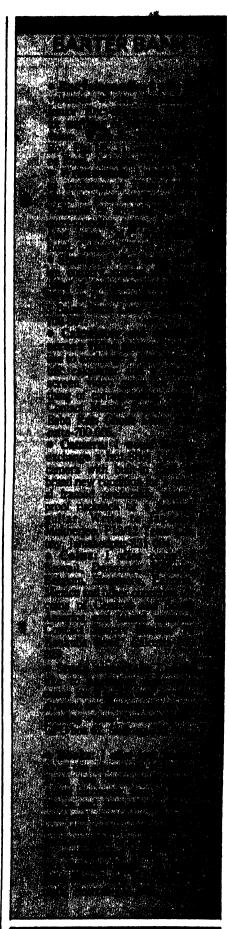
KRISHNENOU CHAKI

ings was finally forced to advertise for the bureau in 1787, in the Calcutta Gazette, offering a reward of two thousand sicca rupees to anyone who could give him information of its whereabouts. But, from the way he haunted Hastings House, it may be supposed that he got no satisfaction out of the advertisement.

Then there was the ghost of Mrs Cooper, which haunted a house in Dharamtolla, a little beyond Wellington Square. Her husband found her lying dead in the corridor one morning. She had been strangled. It was the third tragedy in a house which had also witnessed the deaths of the two Cooper boys and, after Mr Cooper left, it soon acquired a reputation for being haunted.

Two strangers to Calcutta, who leased the house several years later met, to their horror, "a fine, tall woman...She appeared sceptical, bhoots are still very much part of Bengal's life and times. Every Kali Puja, Bhoot Chaturdashi is celebrated with candles and 14 types of shaag, while fireworks burst to exorcise evil. Sukumar Sen writes of a ghost court which still sits in a certain tamarind tree in Diamond Harbour. Plaintiffs whisper appeals into the leaves and records of the sessions exist, along with the fee of the ghost judge. And, of course, if one searches, one can still find exorcists doing a thriving trade.

And so the stories start in a shadow, with a whisper. The beautiful young girl next door drowned herself in the pond and so-and-so met her last night with a kolshi (earthen pot) around her neck, and she tried to drown him. A petni caught Jadur Ma by the hair and she hasn't been the same since. Something moved in the night: bhoot bhoot, bhoot!



NKERTY GIRLAND

RIES March 21 April 20

Finishing touches to pending work constitute the week Someone who owes you money may employ smooth liaison tactics Romance will be uneventful. This is not the best time to launch joint ventures or partnerships Others may create problems for you. A short trip at this time may remove you from the reach of troublesome callers

AURUS April 21 May 20 Good setting, eliminating the essentials and identifying your target are the main trends There will be even, steady and pleasant relationships, whether in bud or full bloom in finance, tighten your purse strings in order to achieve your new goals, some austerity will be required Be prepared to travel as this will be a busy week Throat infections, toothache and sinus problems may annoy you



EMINI

May 21 -June 20 The main trends are communications,

signing of documents and security considerations. Some expenses will be there towards the security of recently acquired property In romance, a marriage proposal or engagement is very likely for the eligible A re-marriage may also be possible Medical expenses for your spouse or a relative are indicated



ANCER

June 21 July 20 Travel, a home away from home, problems, resolutions • and a reunion are foretold A tight lip will improve chances of resolving a nagging problem Speak only what is essential and don't allow others to control your activities Romance will be uneventful in finance there will be improvements Expenses multiply temporarily but you will have sudden gains,

July 21-August 21 Recuperation, cutting vour losses. and regaining lost ground constitute the week and you take the right steps to repair your damages Employment absorbs you in romance, a dicey situation is brought about by a meddling relative Tension will be the result, lasting two to three days Finances will improve shortly Your health will see you through happ-

EO



















IBRA

Sept 23 Oct 22 Fatter pay pockets, buying and selling of property and research constitute the week. You may take up a new trend, either for pleasure or profit. but look before you leap Familiarise yourself as much as possible in romance, your chances for marriage and meeting the right partner improve Finance will prove to be a mixed bag for those on salary net increases



IRGO

August 22 Sept 22

ge, collaborations and journey in

romance, there will be a singing

bird in your heart Finance will

involve a lucrative collaboration,

minor illness of a chronic nature

but nothing serious. A slight dan-

ger of eye injury and problems

with private parts of the body are

The main trends of

the week are marria

there may be a

June 2

Healthwise,

to be apprehended

Moon trine sun Keep your wits about you, don't be taken in by children, and rest sequred that some good luck must came to you. It would be best to avoid speculation A hobby should be inter-esting. A little faith in yourself should act as a tonic.

Moon square Pluto. Avoid hassies and worries, if you want to make the most of your birthyear Be creative, Be different. Do your own work More mileage and eatisfaction will come that way Health safeguards are very sential Be polite but firm with those who do interfere.

June 4

Mercury sextile Venus. Traders, actors, salesmen, accountants, Tim stars, chemiets, executives, setrologers, poets and those in father living and decorations, get the best out of this Mercury-Vignus positioning.

June 5

-Moon's last quarter A fire quarter for finishing pending work or attending to new vantu-res. The name of the game is pro-

grees and happiness. Those in import-export, aphituality, the opcult, trading, management and the arts de partiquially well as the moon also exities Neptune.

June 6

Moon trine Verge: Take entra good care of your health. Your children and grandchildren will love you, enemies will make up, and therefore, the tension will be less. There is a slight danger of accidents, so watch your step. It will pay to have a sense of Cultivate outside humour. interests.

June 7

Moon trine Jupiter Success is toretold in ventures, you will feel the thirst to start an adventure, say a journey round the world, or even research. Your pioneering instincts will come to the fore and you should give them full play. Remember, nothing vientured, nothing gained!

June 8

Moon sextile sun, square Neptuner The best is yet to be in terms of work, play, love and that's certainly saying a lot. Take chances the a winner. Teachers, stu-dents, lawyers, actors and play-boys have it made. Make the world your oyster.



CORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 22 Children and marnage are highlighted

once again Housing, loans, funds make a tripod in finance, contacts and assignments are foreseen You will be healthy as a horse. You will need to take short trips at a hectic pace These will be tiring but with fruitful results



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20 Money will move back and forth from hand to

hand and there will be property deals of all sorts and business expansions Romance uneventful In finance, the atmosphere of the previous week conti nues In the continuous exchanges there will be no real ups or downs Cash will keep on circulating All sorts of journeys are indicated Also expect visitors from far Exhaustion and insomnia, boils or skin infection may pose problems



APRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19 Publicity group activity and completion of

long projects are the main trends of the week Grab the limelight because you will succeed if you enter a competition This is certainly a good time for marriage and engagements Old affairs too may suddenly rekindle happily In finance there will be a definite improvement as property, sales or project closure generate cash into your coffers



QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feh 18

The love bug bites you You will have the Midas touch in romance two hearts will throb as one A repair of a broken heart and happy reunions for separated lovers are foretold in finance all your eggs are hatched and you keep busy coun ting your beautiful chicks Travel is indicated both for pleasure and for business



also not ruled out

ISCES Feb 19-March 20

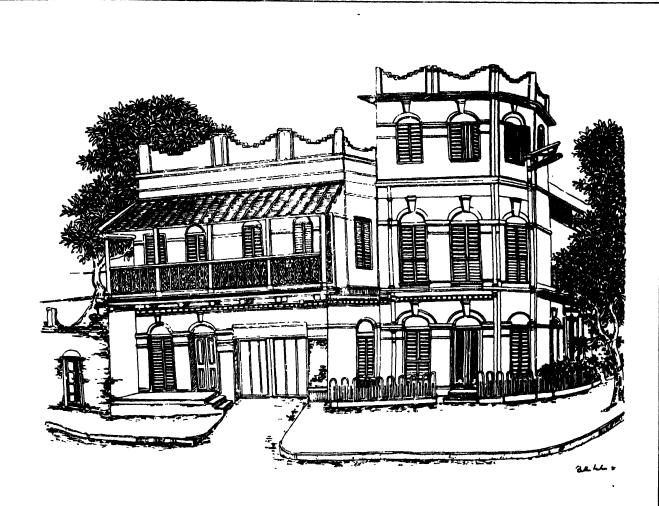
You explore the depths of your own being and feel pleasantly pampered this week Problems, resolutions and decision--making will absorb you A double edged opportunity for marriage, courtships or engagement puts you in a quandary Only you can say whether the pros out-weigh the cons Continue building or re-building resources Your purse strings must be tightened An old bone or joint ailment will briefly flare up Ear aches are

ly.

too







One of the earliest children's magazines to be published from Calcutta, Ramdhanu, first hit the stands in 1928. Its founder-editor was Bireshwar Bhattacharya. He was not just its editor; he was a litterateur, translator and collector of old music. He was a district magistrate by profession.

After Bireshwar's death, his son Manoranjan took over as Ramdhanu's editor. A first class first in economics and political science, Manoranjan taught for some time at Ripon College. In fact, he was the one to have introduced detective stories and mystery thrillers for children. He was profi-

cient in humorous writing as well. Some of his popular works include Padmarag, Ghosh Chaudhurir Ghari, Sonar Harın, Hukakashır Galpo and Chaver Dhoan. He died when he was only 30. After him, his younger brother, Kshitindranaravan, took over the reins of Ramdhanu. It is said that Kshitindranarayan was the pioneer in writing science fiction for children. His Romanchokar, Meghnad, Luptadhan, Tusharloker Rahasya, Barodighir Raybari and Golak Rahasya deserve mention. He was ably aided in his editorial work by his daughter, poetess Sucheta Mitra.

With Mitra's untimely death, Kshitindranarayan became virtually a shattered person. Eventually when he died last year, the 62-year-old Ramdhanu, too, stopped its publication.

The three-storey building (sketched above) at 16 Townshend Road (now renamed Sakharam Ganesh Dauskar Sarani) in the Bhowanipore area of south Calcutta, whose ground floor was the birthplace of Ramdhanu, and which houses the Kalitara Press and the offices of its publication department, is now in a dilapidated state and stands in need of urgent repairs.

RARE AND LOVELY

India, Burma and China are rich in flora Many beautiful trees are indigenous to India These include Cassia fistula (Amaltas), Butea monosperma (Palash), Bombax ceiba (Semul), species of Albizzia (Sirish), Alstonia scholaris (Chatim), Saraca asoca (Asoke) and so on But many beautiful trees have been introduced in this country during the last 200 years from different parts of the world including Afri-

Some extremely beautiful flowering trees are found in Calcutta—though they are a rare species even here, says T.K. Bose

Pew rare but unusually beautiful flowering trees, still found in Calcutta, are described below:

Brownen macrophylla: Introduced from tropical Americs This dwarf tree produces reddish orange flowers in large clusters from the stems and large branches in March-April It is likely that only two plants are surviving in the garden of the Agri Florticultural Society at Alapore.

Andira inermis (Cabbage tree): A beautiful evergreen tree bearing large clusters of purple flowers at the end of the woody branches in March-April. It was introduced in the Indian Botanical Gardens and is not found anywhere else in this country.

Schotia latifolia: The only tree is in the garden of the Agri Horticultural Society, introduced from Africa It produces numerous clusters of dark crimson flowers in the summer.

Monodors grandiflors: This tree was antroduced from Africa and the only tree is in the garden of the Agri Horticultural Society. The orchid-like flowers are unusually beautiful, appearing from November to February.

Cassia moschata: Another rare tree in the Society's garden at Alipore. It is a large tree, bearing numerous yellow flowers that turn red, in small clusters along a considerable length of the woody branches in summer.

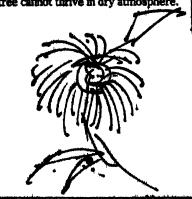
Brownes grandiceps: A, rare tree of medium height, produces reddish purple Sowers in large clusters about 15 cm in diameter.

Charles arbores: The only tree introducing in the Indian Botanical Garden from seeds obtained from South America by Dr S.K. Basu of the Botanical Survey of India, through late Dr B.C. Kundu, a distinguished botanist. Numerous large spikes of reddish violet flowers hang from drooping branches of this handsome evergreen tree in lune-July.

Balklace insignis: This evergreen tree, introduced from West Africa, exists in the Society's garden. It is likely that the tree will not be found in any other garden in this country. Clusters of large white flowers, 15-20 cm in length, appear in late summer and early ramy season, a remarkable sight when in blossom.

Peltophorum africanum: Introduced from Africa in the Indian Botanical Garden by Dr S.K. Basu of the Botanical Survey of India. The beautiful tree with fine foliage bears large spikes of yellow flowers in June-July. A rare tree m this country

Amherstia nobilis (Noble Amherstia): It is one of the best flowering trees in the tropics. As the tree does not set seeds freely and root formation is not satisfactory in air-layers, it is not commonly found except in some old private and public gardens. It was first introduced here from Burms. It bears long pendulous racemes of briliant red flowers edged with yellow. This tree cannot thrive in dry atmosphere.



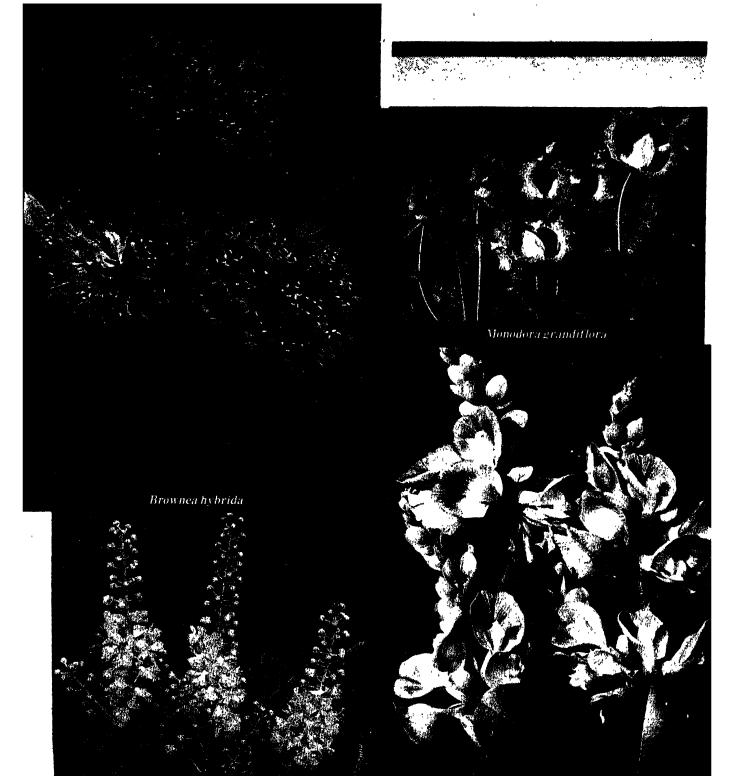
ca, Australia, South America, Burma, China and Japan, mostly by the British explor ers and missionaries Since the establishment of the Agri Horticultural Society in Calcutta in 1820 and the Indian Botanical Gardens more than 200 years back, introduction of trees and plants of ornamental and economic importance became a major work of these pioneer institutions. As a result, among the cities and towns in India, Calcutta was the first to develop a tradition of gardens and plant culture, and many gardens of this city were considered un usually spectacular in their design in plant ing The Agri Horticultural Society has been organising flower, fruit and vegetable shows in Calcutta since 1827

The early introduction of plants in India including fruit and vegetable bearing plants and many of the popular ornamental plants like Bougamvillaea and Dahlia was thanks to the Agri Horticultural Society more than 100 years back, in Calcutta Trees like Delonix regia (Gulmohar commonly known as Krishnachura), Colvillea race mosa (Colville's Glory), Kigelia pinnata (Sausage tree), Spathodea campanulata (Tulip tree) and many others, so popular in different parts of India, were introduced from Africa

Eucalyptus, Callistemon (Bottle brush) and Grevillia robusta (Silver oak) introduced from Australia, have successfully adapted themselves to the climate of India Jacarandas, Fabebuias, Samanea saman (Rain tree), coroupita guianensis (Canon ball tree) were brought from South Amer

Among the trees introduced in this country, a number of beautiful flowering species are rarely found even in Calcutta and seldom in other parts of the country, mainly because they often fail to produce seeds or are difficult to propagate by other methods. Another reason why these plants are rare is the lack of an awareness to save these trees from extinction

In fact, very few persons or organisations are at present serious about conservation of plants and sincere in their efforts in this direction, though many such conservation programmes do exist on paper. For example, there are several organisations dealing with plants and gardens in Calcutta, but has there been any effort to multiply some of the rare trees which may become extinct in another few years? Calcutta is steadily losing its culture of plants and gardens



The next conflict in the Middle East may be over drops of water, not barrels of oil.

The highest likelihood for a water war or a cold conflict as devastating as war exists in the Middle East. The crisis is now, says Joyce R. Starr, chairman of the Global Water Summit Initiative, a non-profit policy research group that will sponsor an international summit on Mideast water in Istanbul, Turkey, next November.

The potential for disputes over riverwater rights exists globally, because 200 of the world's major rivers are each shared by at least two sovereign countries; 52 are each shared by three to 10 countries.

No international laws or agreements govern the non-navigation uses of most of these rivers. Every river basin has its own threshold of volatility. No other region is more volatile than the fractious, battered Middle East.

Oil is no longer the determining factor in the Middle East. Water is, says John Kolars of the University of Michigan. In the new water politics water-rich countries such as Turkey will prosper, he says, while water-poor countries such as Syria may suffer.

Plagued by periodic drought, the region is one of the driest on Earth; 97 per cent of Egypt, for example, is desert.

The population of many Middle Eastern countries grows at a staggering three per cent a year. Competition for water is intense. More than 75 per cent of Mideast water goes to agriculture. Water has become a matter of national security.

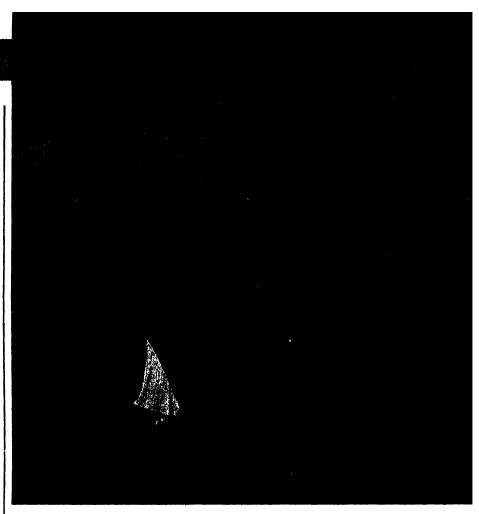
Often-warring neighbours share the major river basins: the Nile, Tigris, Euphrates, Jordan and Yarmuk. About 85 per cent of the Nile water that Egypt uses has its source in Ethiopia.

No other country in the world is so dependent on a single lifeline as Egypt is on the Nile. Egyptian foreign minister Boutros Ghali has said his country's national security is based on Nile water.

Nearly 40 per cent of Israel's water comes from aquifers, underground sources, beneath the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The vital Jordan River, uneasily shared by Israel and Jordan, is fed by the Yarmuk River, which forms the boundary between Jordan and Syria.

The Sea of Galilee, the miracle lake of the Holy Land where the Bible says Jesus walked on water, has dropped to the lowest level ever recorded. Overuse and drought have drained the sea, source of about 25 per cent of Israel's water, to a danger point.

Israel and Jordan are overdrawing their water resources by about 15 per



AND NOW, A WATER



The Gulf War has changed even the water power equation, says

Joy Aschenbach

WAR?

g cent, experts estimate. Israel, which already uses four times as much water, p-principally for irrigation, as its Arab neighbours, will take in a million more immigrants, mostly Soviet Jews, in the next few years.

This will further hasten the day when, unless something is done to prevent it,

the water runs out.

Close to 80 per cent of Iraq's water originates outside its borders. Turkey controls 96 per cent of the headwaters of the Euphrates, which flows through Syria

and Iraq. Turkey also controls about 80 per cent of the headwaters of the Tigris, a major source of Iraqi water.

In Syria the drought has become so severe that residents of Damascus, the capital, have had the taps turned off in their homes every day from 2 pm until 6 the next morning.

The Persian Gulf War altered the balance of water power in the Euphrates basin. Iraq is in chaos, and Turkey's control is even greater than it was before the war, says Thomas Naff, director of the Philadelphia-based Associates for Middle East Research.

Turkey is the only Middle Eastern country with an abundant water surplus. Turkey can now do anything it wants with that water, Naff says, although it does not appear that it will aggressively press this power.

Syria and Iraq fear the potential impact of Turkey's massive Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates River, which will be the fourth largest in the world when it begins operating later this year.

The Ataturk is the main component of Turkey's biggest development effort, the

Southeast Anatolia Project, which will include a series of dams and hydroelectric power plants to irrigate millions of arid acres and to increase energy output.

The gulf war has left Jordan in a weaker position for obtaining international financing for the disputed Unity Dam that it hopes to build on the Yarmuk, says Naff. The Yarmuk is Jordan's only source of fresh water that has not been fully tapped.

The Unity project has been stalled indefinitely because Israel and Jordan have failed to agree on their fair share of Yarmuk waters, says Richard L. Armitage of the US State department, who is special mediator for Mideast water.

"We are beyond the point in the Middle East of regarding water merely as a non-political key that might open political doors," he says. The water crisis is fully upon us. ... Any Arab or Israeli leader who fails to recognise and act upon the water emergency is condemning his own society and those of his neighbours to slow and painful deaths."

Parched Persian Gulf nations, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, which have drained dry many of their aquifers, including the Dammam, must obtain nearly all of their fresh water by removing the salt from sea water.

Sixty per cent of the world's desalinated water is produced in the gulf countries. Only their oil wealth makes the expensive process affordable.

Believing that water may become more precious than oil, Turkey's President Turgut Ozal has proposed a peace pipeline to sell surplus Turkish water to thirsty Arab countries. The pipeline would carry the excess flow from the twin Seyhan and Ceyhan rivers south along two possible routes through the Arabian Peninsula.

This is not a project of the sweet-dreams department, insists Necati Utkan, the Turkish ambassador to Iraq.

Water must become a bridge for cooperation.

It's not altogether a pipe dream, says Naff. But he points out that the pipeline would take about a decade to build, cost at least \$20 billion and require the cooperation of Israel, Jordan and Syria.

The November water summit in Istanbul, with Ozal as its host, will be a launching pad, Starr hopes, for the eventual creation of an independent, regionwide water authority that could save the Middle East from a water catastrophe.

(National Geographic News Service)

COVER STORY

he is not quite 24. And she has not quite achieved what she has been promising for years. Yet, Ashwini Nachappa, the giggling Coorgi, is probably the best known name in Indian athletics. Moreso, after the exit of P.T. Usha, who has sought marital bliss after a 10-yearlong tryst with sports. Talented as she is, athletics alone is not the only thing Ashwini is known for. Good-looking, with a penchant for fashionable, hip-hugging jeans and short skirts, chirpy and articulate (much to the delight of the media which thrives on sizzling quotes), Ashwini is dream copy for most feature writers.

The younger of two athletic sisters, Ashwini was in the background till the elder one was around. Ashwini, even while being a junior, never really ran a junior race for India. She was thrown into the senior section headlong. The growing up process, athletically and otherwise, was all in the manner of being thrown into the deep end without actually having been taught the rudiments of swimming. The survivor is one who first learns to flap around and then finally manages to glide. Ashwini is a survivor in such a mould.

Ashwini and her sister, Pushpa, took to sports from a very early age. Competing in the school section, they won prizes by the bagful. It was Pushpa who made the first mark on the national scene in 1979, when the two sisters first appeared in the junior section. Both ran in the under-14 section, but it was not till 1981 that Pushpa was seen as a future Indian prospect. And she was also invited to join the seniors camp for the Asian Games. It was not exactly a call into the senior echelons but baptism was close.

It was in 1984 that Pushpa first went for an international. She was selected for the junior national squad for an international meet in Seoul. It could well have been a double celebration for the Nachappa sisters. Ashwini, too, was selected for the meet. But was dropped at the last moment. Then, she did not even know the reason. After so many years in Indian sports and with innumerable meets behind her, she has a better idea now. Maybe, the government did not clear the full team, she muses. Pushpa went for the meet, with Ashwini staying back. All that is past, but it was the first lesson in perseverance for Ashwini.

Before the year was out, Ashwini did win her spurs. And that, too, in the senior national team for the inaugural South Asian Federation Games. P.T. Usha had decided to skip the meet after her fourth-place finish at the Los Angeles Olympics and that meant a chance for young Ashwini. She did not let it slip. And more importantly, there were no hitches as in the case of the Seoul junior international. She finished second behind Shiny Abraham in the

100m. and then was part of the 4 x 100m. relay team which won the gold. "That was the first break for me. Wearing the Indian vest was the greatest thrill in my life. The tension of a first international meet over, I could concentrate on greater heights," she recalls of that time.

The meet was also a learning process. She was part of a big team. "I made friendships which have lasted till now. That was the first time I met the Sood sisters, Anita and Kavita, who today are among my closest friends. I met and learnt a few things from Adille, who was then among the top sprinters in the country," adds Ashwini.

Even after making it to the Indian team, the trials and tribulations of Ashwini Nachappa were far from being over. The fear of being dropped at the last moment once again became a reality in 1985. But it

In the recent athletics
meet at Calcutta, Ashwini
Nachappa showed that
she was the fastest
woman around. But is she
what she is because of her
track talent alone? Or is it
her ritzy looks and special
vibes with the media that
have crowned her
performances on the
metred turf? RUPINDER
SINGH on the Indian
Flo-Jo



was something totally needless. A confusion among the selectors resulted in Ashwini being named for the Indian Universities team for the World Student Games in Kobe, Japan. Pushpa, who was actually in contention, was dropped and





Ashwini included. "I was still in school then, but there was confusion over whether the plus-two stage was part of college or school. In Karnataka it was considered as college and in some other parts of the country it was treated as school. But I was not to blame for the confusion," she says of that episode.

Ashwini herself was in Patiala in a camp when the team was announced. After receiving frantic messages she managed to get to Delhi overnight, but when she reached the capital she was informed that she could not go. "It was one of the most depressing days in my life. I was being left out for the second time at the last minute." But it only made her more mature. "Now I knew that anything could happen between the selection and the actual event. In future I would be better prepared."

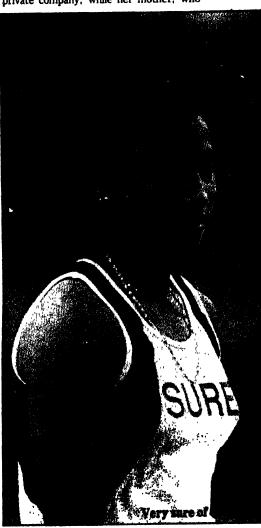
Just as she was approaching 18, she started receiving job offers on the strength of her athletic ability. She had just returned from the Asian track and field championships in Jakarta and won a medal to boot. She was part of the bronzewinning 4 x 100m. squad, while elder sister was part of the 4 x 400m. team, which took the gold. Once back in Karnataka, she took up the job with Vijaya Bank even while enrolling herself for graduation through correspondence.

The real test in life was to follow in 1986. It was perhaps the year of reckoning for her. It had a lot of disappointments in athletics, a break-up with a coach who had trained her for almost seven years and assuming the role of main bread-earner in the family with Pushpa's going away to the US on a scholarship.

It began with her failure to make the Indian team for the 100m. for the 1986 Asian Games. Despite being in good form, she fouled up two starts and was out of the selection trials. There followed a couple of days when she locked herself in the room and wept all alone. Then out came the gritty side when she made the squad in long jump, where she finally finished fifth at Seoul. On her return, she broke up with her long-time coach, Shivegowde, and for some time she was without a coach. But even before her departure for Seoul, Pushpa decided to shift to the US. That

meant Ashwini would now be the principal earner in Bangalore.

It was a heavy responsibility, for her father was in Calcutta. Years ago, her father had moved to Calcutta to work for a private company, while her mother, who



could not adjust to the humid climate of Calcutta decided to stay back in Bangalore with the two daughters. It was not as if the family was in a bad way—the father was sending as much as he could from Calcutta—but to be the only one around with her





mother, it was big responsibility indeed. The job, which till the previous year, had been a second income—Pushpa's being the main one—now became the most important financial segment of the family. Still in her teens, Ashwini, then 19, had to think more than just athletics. But at the same time, it was athletics which could open up new vistas in life.

Living in a one-room apartment with her mother, Ashwini took on the twin task of handling life and athletics at the same time. It was not easy. First, she took on city mate and former international Sunil Abraham as her new coach. For the next year or two it was a question of making for herself a secure place in the Indian team in individual events. That apart, she had to try and improve things for herself and her mother, a keen sports follower, who would turn up at the Kanteerva Stadium every morning to see her daughter train.

Despite the media attention, athletics was still not exactly a money-spinning sport. Even winners were struggling to make two ends meet. Around the mid-Eighties, the Government of India started its scheme of awarding Indian sportspersons for their medal-winning efforts at the international level, especially at the Asiar level. Her efforts in the 1987 Asian tracl and field meet, where she won a gold is the 4 x 400m. relay was the beginning o the winning streak. Once back home she got awards which would stabilise her life outside of athletics. The next few year would see Ashwini win more medals at the Asian level, either individual (as in th 1987 ATF in 200m.) or in the relays. Th government awards were supplemente by more awards from the Amateur Athle tic Federation of India, which too re warded the medal winners.

ood things, like miseries, come in to Trents. The bad patch was over. He employers, Vijaya Bank, too, gave her premotion. Athletics apart, her tendence to wear fashionable clothes, so much part of the current generation of yout plus her rebellious nature landed her more than just one problem. First, it was question of running trials more than one on the eve of the Seoul Olympics in 198 where she protested. While some other athletes, too, supported her view th there should not be too many trials, it w Ashwini who was alleged to have start the rebellion. To the extent that in Seon she was reported to have talked back the chef-de-mission, K.P. Singh Deo. B Ashwini herself denied having been ru to the chef-de-mission. For good measu she also apologised. The disciplinary (tion after being initiated against her a two others was finally dropped. .

That over, another controversy f lowed. And this one had nothing to do w

The state of the s

her, she says, and yet her name was needlessly dragged in. Ashwini was nominated and then presented the Arjuna Award in 1990 for the year 1989. The AAFI claimed it had recommended Mercy Kuttan and not Ashwini, but the Sports Authority of India had decided to give the award for 1989 to Ashwini. Despite all the hue and cry, she received the award and numerous columns were written on the merits and demerits of the award.

Her ability to converse well with the media as opposed to the monosyllabic answers from other athletes did not help matters. Whatever she said was blown out of proportion. And from the day she beat Usha for the first time in the 200m., every

silver medal in the 4 x 100m. relay.

Coming back to India in such a mood, she accepted the offer to act in a Telugu film which has as its central theme the rise of Ashwini Nachappa. Titled, Aswani, "for that is the way my name is pronounced and written in Telugu", she says with a giggle, it became the first Indian movie to revolve totally around the life of an individual sportsperson.

Controversies which had become so much a part of her life in the last few years, surfaced once again. Should she, while being an active athlete, 'waste' time to act in a film? Was she going to give up athletics? Would movies be her life now? Such were the queries posed all the time.

it was only natural for her want to wear fashionable clothes as was the 'scene' in Bangalore. "My friends dressed thus. They wore jeans, skirts and I, too, wanted to do so. I did-and everybody talked. What could I do? Either I could listen to them or live my own life. I chose the latter and at the same time did not allow my athletics to be affected," she says.

Fashionable clothes, fast times on the track and her articulate nature all mean that it is she who gets the media attention. But when there is so much attention, expectations increase manifold. So it is with her. With the departure of Usha, already comparisons between her timings and those of Usha's, are being drawn. Usha's



statement of hers was interpreted as haughty. "But I had learnt to live with it," she says of all the comments which came

out at that stage.

With success and all the publicity that went with it, she also became the first woman athlete to be offered a role in a film. In 1990, the year she beat Usha, the hype built around Ashwini was expected to materialise into a medal at Beijing. She crumbled in the face of that pressure and with Usha, too, not striking gold, the Indian athletics campaign was seen as a big disaster. The ailver and bronze medals were no consolation. Ashwini, too, was part of a failure even though she won a

And from November-December last year when the shooting for the film began, to the time she ran in the Open Nationals in Calcutta recently, her athletic talents, like many times before, were on test all over again. The girl, now besieged by film offers—all of which she says she has de-clined, including one opposite Bangarappa, the well-known Kannada movie star and son of the present Karnataka chief minister-and advertising contracts, passed yet another test when she took and beat all opposition in Calcutta in the three events in a space of three days.

A product of the current public school generation (she studied at Mount Carmel),

and the state of the contract

staid and strict lifestyle are often viewed as the ideal one to perform well at the highest level while Ashwini's nature is seen more as a distraction from the sport. Whether Ashwini will be able to take up the spot left vacant by Usha is something only time can tell, but there is certainly one thing we can be sure of: the gutsy Bangalorean will give it all she has to be the very best. "I have only one life, so why not do as much I can and do it well," she says. Brave words indeed, and from a youngster who has seen more than her share of life and all of it much earlier than expected of normal people. (Sports Management Group)



Sunjay Dutt in Qurbani Rang Layegi

and with music by Laxmikant Pyarelal, the chief attractions of this film are Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawla, Seema Deo, Rohini Hattangady, Satish Shah, Rakesh Bedi, Amrish Puri and Shilpa Shir-

• Joomma Chumina in London: Paradise (Bentinck Street: 285442), Priya (Rashebhari Avenue; 464440), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033).

Recordings of the live programmes abroad of Amitabh Bachchan, Sridevi, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Neelam, Anupam Kher and other stars.

• Khatra: Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522). Directed by H.N. Singh and with

music by Aadesh, the main cast of this film comprises Sumeet Saigal, Ektaa and Raza Murad.

• Qurbani Rang Layegi: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417).

A film by Raj Sippy, starring Sunjay Dutt, Poonam Dhillon, Padmini Kolhapure and Shakti Kapoor. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Sanam Bewafa: Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664)-4 shows.

Salman Khan and debutante Chandni play the lead in this recent box-office hit. Others co-starring are new-find Kanchan, Puneet Issar, Pankai Dheer, Danny and Pran. The film is directed by Saawan Kumar and the music is by Mahesh Kishor.

• Yeh Aag Kab Bujhegi: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road: 242266)-4 shows.

A film on the evils of the dowry system, starring Sunil Dutt, Rekha, Kabir Bedi, Shakti Kapoor, Ranjeet, Bindu and debutante Sheeba. The film is directed by Sunil Dutt and the music is by Ravindra Jain.

Bengali Films

• Beder Meye Josna: Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

One of the biggest hits in recent times, this Bangladesh production stars Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh. Also in the cast are Saifuddin, Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Soma, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarnath and Bulbul. The film is directed by Matiyur Rehman Panu

• Neelimaye Neel: Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282), Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567)—3

Tapas Paul, Indrani Halder and Sreela Majumder are the principal attractions in this film, directed by Biresh Chatterjee. The music is by Swapan Chakraborty.

Sanghamitra Banerjee, Babita and Anil Chatterjee in *Palataka*

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

• Aayee Milan Ki Raat: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383)-4 shows.

Avinash Wadhwan and Shaheen are the lead pair in this film, directed by K. Pappu. Others costarring are Anupam Kher, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Aloknath, Paresh Rawal, Aruna Irani and Rita Bhaduri. The music is by Anand Milind.

• Afsana Pyar Ka: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138)—4

Directed by Shahjahan and with music by Bappi Lahiri, the film stars Asmir Khan and Neelam.

• Benaam Badsha: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917)-4 abows.

Directed by K. Ravi Shankar



• Palataka: Radha (Bidhan Sarani; 553045). Alochhava (Beliaghata Main Road; 355059)-3 shows.

Directed by Sharan Dey and with music by Panchanan Chatterjee, the cast includes Prasenjit, Babita, Rabi Ghose, Tarun Kurnar, Sanghamitra Banerjee and Anil Chatterjee.

Theatre

• Anthony Kabiyal: Kashi Biswanath Mancha (Canal West Road; 355598)-Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.
Directed by Jnanesh Mukherjee,

the main cast comprises Arindam Ganguly, Indrani Halder, Kali Banerjee, Ketaki Dutta and Dulal Lahiri.

• Ghatak Bidaye: Star (79/3/4 Bidhan Saranı; 339369)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

The play stars Madhabi Mukherjee, Tarun Kumar, Sreela Majumder, Rabi Ghose and Soumitra Chatterjee, who has also directed this paly, directed by Subimol Roy.

• Jiban Sangini: Rungmahai (76/ 1B Bidhan Sarani; 337186)— Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm

LAYS.

Directed by Jnanesh Mukherjee who also stars along with Lily Chakraberty, Arun Banerjee, Utpal Roy, Kaushik Banerjee, Sanghamitra Banerjee and Chinmoy Roy.

• Ki Bibhrat: Rangana (153/2A Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 556846)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

A comedy, starring Anup Kumar, Rajeshwari Roy Choudhury, Abhisek Chatterjee, Ajit Banerjee, Gıta Dey, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Aloka Ganguly and Ratna Ghosal. Direction: Ganesh Mukherice.

• Nati Binodini: Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street; 338413)-Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Bina Dasgupta who also stars in the title role, the cast includes Ashim Kumar, Anitesh Bhattacharya, Ujjal Sengupta, Kaberi Biswas and others.

Mary Mary

• Prem Parinati: Pratap Mancha (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; opp. Rajabazar tram depot)-Thurs. & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Tarun Kumar, the

cast includes K. Debraj, Manju Bhattacharya, Ashim Mukherjee, Meena Dey, Partha Banerjee and Rita Koyral.

• Saheb: Circarena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street; 557213) - Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Tapas Paul stars in the title role. Also co-starring are Subhendu Chatterjee, Anamika Saha, Srirup Mitra, Banı Kumar, Manju Chakraborty, Buibul Choudhury, Chan-drani Halder and Sovanial Mukherjee, who also directs.

 Sudhu Bhalobasa: Minerva Theatre (6 & 6/1 Beadon Street, 554489)—Thurs & Sat. at 6.30 pm; Sun. at 3 pm & €.30 pm.

Irani Mukherjee, Keka Choudhury, Sumanta Roy, Miss Liza and Miss J are the principal attractions of this play, directed by Partha Sarathi Das.

Special Events

The state of the s

2 & 3 June: 6.30 pm Mehfil presents Gurdas Mann, the popular pop and folk singer from Punjab, in two musical sessions.

At Kala Mandir (Shakespeare Sarani: 479086/402197). 3-7 June: 6.30 pm

A festival of plays, to com-memorate Gandhar's 30th anniversary, features Threatre Workshop's Bela Abelar Galpo on 3rd, Gandhar's Neelam Neelam on 4th, Anya Theatre's Madhab Malanchi Kainya on 5th, Sundaram's Alakanander Putra Kanya on 6th, and Rangakarmee's Holi on 7th

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5). Al-306 at 1915; Dep (5): Al-306 at 2020.

Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6) Al-309 at 1910; Dep (6): Al-309 at 2025. London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7)

Al-132/1328 at 1230

Moscow-Shariah-Calcutta: Arr (4) SU-537 at 1525

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1725

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanoi: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0640; Dep (2): SU-541 at 0750. Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-

Tashkent-Moscow: Arr (2): SU-542 at 1615; Dep. (2) SU-542 at

Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4). RJ-184 at 0645

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-185 at 0530.

Bucharest-Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (1): RO-063 at 1115, Arr. (6). RO-063 at 1045; Dep. (1): RO-063 at 1230, Dep. (6) RO-063 at 1200. + Bangkok-Calcutta-Bucharest: Arr. (1, 6): RO-064 at 2015; Dep. 1, 6). RO-064 at 2130.

Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2): 5Q-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-

120 at 1310. Singapore-Caloutta: Arr. (2): SQ-116 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at

1210. C-731 at 0900; Dep. (2, 4, 7): 114 at 1355

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7):

IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1455

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr (2. 4. 6, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5) RA-213 at 1355.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-723 at 1340, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): BG-092 at 1305, Dep. (7). BG-096 at 1820, Dep. (5, 6): BG-096 at 1935, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4): BG-098 at

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). BG-091 at 1225, Arr. (?): BG-095 at 1710, Arr. (5, 6): BG-095 at 1855, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4). BG-097 at 1940.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5) BG-698 at 0905.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 0825.

Celcutta-Paro: Dep (2). KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2) KB-105 at 0800

Domestic

Air-India 🛚 Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2): Al-101 at 0230

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1). Al-1328 at 1230

Indian Airlines IIII

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-176 at 0900 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-274 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0800

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4,

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

5, 7) IC-765 at 1700, Dep (6) IC-265 at 1700; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-766 at 2210, Arr (6): IC-266

Calcutta-Bangaiore: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6. 7): IC-771 at 0620, Arr (1, 2, 4, 6, 7): IC-772 at 1200

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily). IC-410 at 0615

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr (daily) IC-409 at

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily). IC-229 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6). IC-729 at 0730, Arr. (daily). IC-230 at 1630, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6). IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily): IC-741 at 0835 and IC-743 at 1330; Arr. (daily): IC-742 at 1055 and IC-744 at 1550

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0530; Arr (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr (1): IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1130, Dep. (3, 5, 7). IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1525, Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955. Calcutta-Baggora: Dep. (1). IC-21 at 1300 Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7):

221 at 1300, Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (1): IC-222 at

1520, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-222 at 1320.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-201 at 1400, Arr (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-202 at 1730 Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep

(daily): IC-255 at 0610; Arr. (daily): IC-256 at 1050.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7). IC-257 at 1130; Arr (1, 3, 5, 7). IC-257 at

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3, 5, 6) IC-269 at 1650, Arr (3, 5, 6) IC-270 at 2040.

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-277 at 1720. Arr (1, 2, 4, 7). IC-278 at 2210

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 1000

Madras-Vishakapatnam-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at

Vayudoot 🗯

Calcutta-Agartala-Kallashahar: Dep (2, 4): PF-729 at 0710, Arr (2, 4). PF-730 at 1120

Calcutta-Shillong-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) PF-701 at 0710, Dep (7): PF-701 at 1210;

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta + No traffic rights on Calcutta-Bangkok-Calcutta

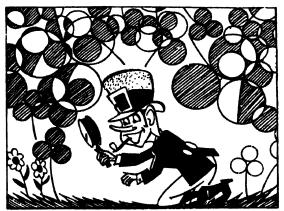
Arr (1 3 5 6) PF /02 at 1120 Arr (7) PF 702 at 1620 Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar Dep (7) PF 729A at 0710 Arr (7) PF 730A at 1140

Calcutta-Jamahedpur. Dep (1 2 3 4 5, 6) PF 717 at 0630 Dep (2 4 6) PF-717A at 1330 Arr (1, 2 3 4 5, 6) PF-718 at 0825 Arr (2, 4 6) PF-718A at 1525

Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi Dep (2 4, 6 7) PF-705 at 0855 Arr (2 4, 6, 7) PF-706 at 1300 Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi-Calcutta. Dep (1 3 5) PF-705A at 1250 Arr (1 3 5) PF-706A a 1635 Calcutta-Cooch Behar Dep (1 3 5) PF-707 at 0855 Arr (1 3 5) PF 708 at 1150

Departure Up Time		EASTERN RAILWA'		7 Arrival Time Dn		arture	SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival	
2311	19-00	Deihi-Kaika Maii	8-30	2312	į				
3005	19-20	Amriteer Meli	8-05	3006	Up	Time	<u>Howrah</u>	Time	Dn
3003	20-00	Bombey Mail via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Medres Meil	7 00	6004
2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Deihi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mali via Nagpur		
	0.0	press via Gaya-Varanasi	10-00	2002	2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	8-00	8001
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat			8034	20-20		15-05	2859
		Arr-Wed Fri & Sun			8030	11-30	Ahmedabed Express	5-05	8033
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex- press via Patna	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur Coromandel (Madras) Ex- press	15-50 11-50	8029 2842
		Dep-Mon Wed Fri & Sun Arr-Mon Tues Thurs & Sat			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express Dep—Tues	13-45	2612
2301	16-00	Raidhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	j		Arr—Sun		
		week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	8014
		Dep-Mon Tues Thurs Fri &			8011	6-10	Ispat Express	21-45	8012
		Sun			8005	21-00	Sambalpu. Express	7-30	8006
		Arr-Tues Wed Thurs Sat &			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	8016
		Sun			8007				
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex-	11-10	2374		22-00	Puri Express Via Cuttack	5-30	8008
	20-00	press Tri-Wkly Dep—Tues Fri & Sat	11-10	23/4	8409	19-35	Jagannath (Puri) Express Via Naraj	7-45	8410
2547	13-15	Arr.—Tues Wed & Sat Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	2821 8079	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex- press	21-20	2822
	10-10	press	7.10	£340	8079	23-20	Tirupati Express	4-15	8080
		Dep-Mon & Thurs Arr-Thurs & Mon			8017	11 10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex- press	14-55	8040
009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-20	3010	8017	16-45	Purulia Express Dep—Except Saturday Arr—Except Sunday	11-20	801
007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	-
3049	13-05	Amriteer Express	15-45	3050	1		Monday only		
1011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	_	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	2601
039	20-55	Delhi Janeta Express via Main Line	5-30	3040	_	14-10	- Guwahati Express Saturday only	13-43	200
019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020		14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022		14-10	Guwahati Weekiy Express	13-45	2048
557	6-00	Kenchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	l		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660			Thursday only		
317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35		00.45	
029	17-15	Coeffield Express	10-30	3030	2050	22-33		22-15	_
035	18-20	Asansol Express	8-45		i		Terminus Weekly Express		
035	21-00			3036			(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
025	23-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032			Saturday only		
UZ5	23-00	North Bihar Express DepWednesday	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Superfest Express (via	13-45	2651
071	22-05	ArrFriday Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6 00	2020	l		Visakhapatnam & Madras)		
J/ 1	22-03	Don Tues Thurs & Co.	6-00	3072	!		Dep-Fri & Sun		
		Dep-Tues Thurs & Sat					Arr-Tues & Fri		
015		Arr—Mon Thurs & Sat	40		2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	_
015	9-55	Sentiniketan Express	15-40	3016	1		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
159	15-25	Chambal (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160	1		& Cuttack)		
		weekly Superfact Express			l		Wednesday only		
		Dep-Thurs Sat & Sun			_	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
	48	Arr—Tues Wed & Thurs	_		1		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express	7-30	1172	l		& Cuttack)		
		Dep—Tues & Wed			1		Monday only		
		Arr-Sat & Sun			2610	22-35	Petne-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	
327	15-25	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Ex-	7-30	3328	l		minus Weekly Express (via	·•	
		press			i		Howrah)		
0.46		Dep & Arr-Mon & Fri			1		Thursday only		
049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patna Weekly Express (via	13 45	2609
		<u>Sealdah</u>					Howrah) Wednesday only		
143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	1				
153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154	l .				
151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152	ENQUI	RIES: For	r round the clock information of	Eastern !	Railway
133	20-45	Mughel Seral Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	trains,	please di er inforn	lel 203545-54 for in-coming train nation. For information about	s; 203538 reservation	5-44 fo
103	18-20	Bhegirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104	Eesten	n and So	uth Eastern Railways trains, die	203500	(from S
	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186	am to	9 pm on	weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm	on Sunda	VA ANG
185	12-40								

JANIOR WHIRE 19 Hid Kealings



'ROCK PILE! Our artist contends there are 14 complets (three-leafed) shemrocks shown above. Can you find the

· SPOT CHECK! See if you can spot the name of a barnyard creature in each word: 1. Spigot. 2. Scowl. 3. Clamber. 4. Hyphen. 5. Skiddoo.

1 bid 5 Cow 3 Famb 4 Hen 2 Kid

I PAT
2_ PAT
3PAT
4PAT
1 PAT
6PAT

EVERYTHING DOWN PAT
A parade of PATS is stepped off progressively in six eight-letter words above. You are asked to find these terms according to the follow-

ing definitions.

1. "Lack of pep is often mistaken for...." —Kin Hubbard.

- 2. Result of sloppy painting (pl.).
 3. Early spring flower.
- 4. Speedy news report. 5. Hiker's route.

- 6. Hold one's own (two words). Limit: Two minutes

7 Patience, 2 Spetters 3 Hepatics 4

• COLD 45! Find four amounts totalling 45, of which it may be said the first plus two, the second minus two, the third times two, and the fourth di-vided by two provide the same result.

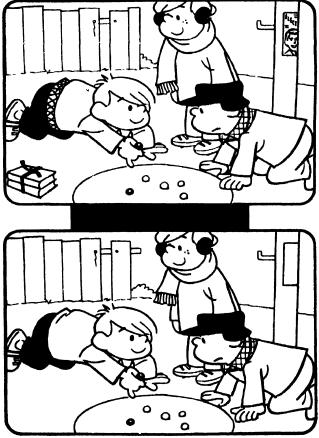
Hint: Amounts range in value from 5 to 20. Remember, they total 45.

How quickly can you discover the four amounts?

typic, tweive, five and twenty, rest tively, mest the requirements



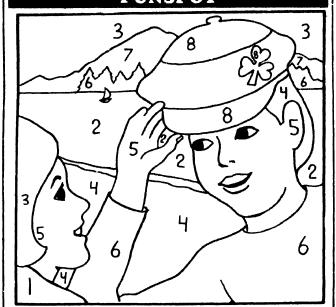
HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Officiances: 1. Sweeter ribbing is missing. 2. Booles are missing. 3. Fence board is missing. 4. Scart is shorter. 5. Poster is missing. 4. Arm is moved.

FUNSPOT



TIP-TOPPER! Sure, and it's a tip of the hat on a very fine day. Add these colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Lt. brown. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Purple. 8—Dit. green.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 18 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

MALARKEY

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 pol



QUIZ - Net O'Brien

n interesting story from Bipradas Das, Seram-

"Devi Durga has 10 hands. According to Hindu mythology, she had 10 hands to kill the demons who came to capture Heaven from the gods. This story is well-known to all. Side by side there is another story which goes like this.

Shiva came to the Himalayas to marry Parvati (another name for Durga). He was clad only in a tiger skin around his waist, tied with living snakes and powdered his face and body with ash. According to Hindu custom, the mother-in-law welcomes (baran) the son-inlaw before the marriage. So Menoka, mother of Parvati, started to baran Shiva with barandala (a big, long plate made of cane carrying handle, sacred thread, vermillion and banana, etc.). The mother-in-law touches the barandala first on the forehead, then the stomach and the feet of the son-in-law. To play a prank on their brotherin-law, the sisters of Parvati put the barandala on a piece of the root of a tree, the smell of which snakes cannot stand-they die if they inhale

"When Menoka started baran and touched the barandala to the stomach of Shiva, his snakes fled instantly and his tiger-skin



11th Question: Moghul miniature paintings are regarded as India's brightest jewels of art. What is the origin of the word 'miniature'? (Aquil Kamal, Boys' Hostel 1, Room no. 24, Burdwan Medical College, Burdwan 713104)

Ans: From the Latin miniare to rubricate and minium vermillion. So, "to paint with vermillion".

dropped to the ground. The god stood naked before his mother-in-law. Humiliated, he decided to take revenue.

'At the time of mala badal (the exchange of garlands for the couple to be married, Shiva was found standing with five heads (another name of Shiva is Pancha-nan—five headed) Parvati with her two hands was at a loss as to how she could garland her five-headed husband. After a while she took out 10 hands and garlanded



the five-headed Shiva. From that time, Devi Durga came to be known as Dashabhuja-ten-handed."

Shakeel Zamal reports from Guwahati.

"*Jnandeep*, an Assamese monthly, organised an All Assam Quiz Competition at the district library auditorium. Guwahati. The quiz was a part of the day-long programme on the fourth anniversary of the magazine and was inaugurated by renowned journalist and former High Commissioner of India to Britain, Kuldip Nayar.

"The event received an overwhelming response from the quiz lovers and quizzers of Assam—121 teams.

"The main round, among the first six groups, was conducted by two of the most renowned quizmasters of Assam-Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury and Robin Kalita. Initially Explorers, The Rebel Yell Gang and Strange Approach were leading the

field, but the extremely ticklish and rapid-fire round by Dr Choudhury proved to be a boon to Excaliburs who quickly soared high and finally emerged champions. Explorers and Strange Approach filled the second and third slots, respectively. Excaliburs earned the prestigious Jnandeep Trophy and the cash prize.

"Amazed at the rousing response to the event, Jnandeep is planning to hold such a competition every year and is also contemplating higher prize money as well as a tougher and more sophisticated competition. It is hoped that such an endeavour will further popularise the event."

Amit Singhal, Calcutta 20, has a question on cricket: 'What is the Hill?''

It is the uncovered area in front of the score board at the Sydney Cricket Ground. During big matches it is occupied by thousands of barrackers who love cricket and alcohol in more or less equal amounts and who are sure they understand cricket better than the umpires. In spite of their beery belligerence, the mob on the hill are a thin-skinned, sensitive lot who were deeply offended when Richard Hadiee described them as the worstmannered cricket crowd in the world.

QUESTIONS

1) Who is the highest scorer in a single Test match? (Prem Shankar Jha, Calcutta 19)

2) Which silent screen comedian's first talkie was Free and Easy? (Nirmalya Kumar Sarkar, Asansoi 1) 3) Why is wind erosion calid apolian erosion? (Arun Kurnar Purohit, Calcutta 7) 4) Who, according to the Bible, invented wine? (Anlani Kumar, Ranchi 7) in secret service jargon, rho is a smuggler? (Sank-r Paul (Kanchrapara)

A trained mathematician, he became an explosives expert and later the 'father of Britain's Atom Bomb'. He died a few months ago. Name him (Rahmat Ali, Calcutta 14) "I feel very humble and at the same time ver proud when I think of the indian people. With what forbearance, what fortitude, what patience they have faced their sufferings!" Who said this? (Ehtesham Anjum, Calcutia 16) 8) When Boris Becker be-

came the Wimbledon

men's singles champion in

1985, the winner of the junior boy's title was four months older than Becker. Name him. (Tehseen Fir-a daus, Calcutta 17) 9) Which Indian painter of the 16th century was a palanguin bearet, was cal-led the first Master of the Age, went mad and committed suicide in 4564? (Swetansu Sekhar Dash, Jharsuguda 2) 10) Which famous Hollywood actress was sued by an indian yoga expert for photostilling his work on yogist that was sittimately settled out of court for \$ 1 million? (Othello Mazgom-

dear, Boral)

ANSWERS

THE CHONGHUN. 19 Hadnel Welch by Bik Daswanath MICO) DINBY CONSOILS idbase sa Venne maining A fingerprint expett sulceA , sbr After the Greek god of usier Keaton. OBP : bator , anut TST ;















ARCHIE



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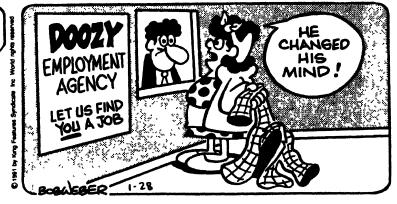


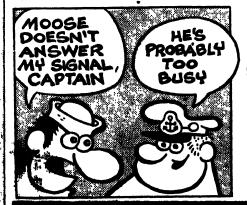


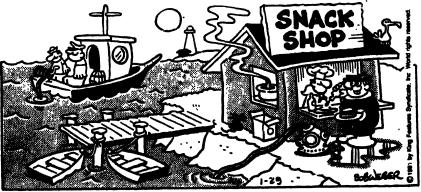


I'M going to lunch, Jerry! Take care of the couple that Just Walked in









THE COURSE STATE









GARFIELD By Jim Davis





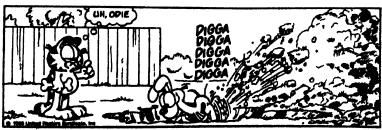
































































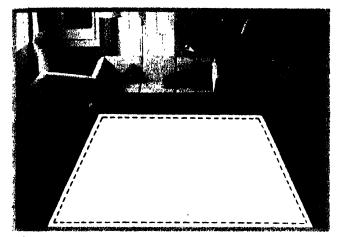




Born: August 20, 1944. Died: May 21, 1991.

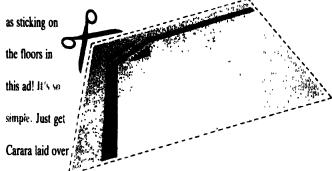
ODAY, GIVE EACH OF THESE ROOMS A MATCHING MARBLE FLOOR.

Y TOMORROW, DO THE SAME IN YOUR HOME.

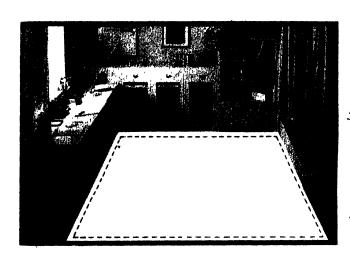


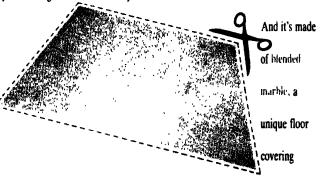
CUT OUT THESE THREF FLOORS. MATCH THEM TO THE ROOMS ON THE LEFT, AND STICK THEM WHERE THEY LOOK BEST

Yes, with Carara, laying down a marble floor in your home is as simple

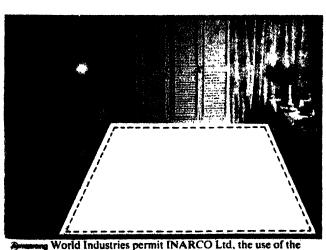


your existing floor. It'll take only a few hours. No mess, no inconvenience.



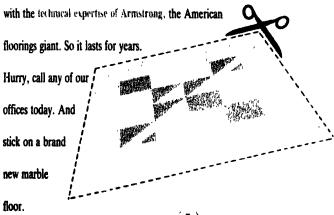


containing fine granulated marble. It comes in two exquisite designs and a range of original shades What's more, Carara is scratch-resistant. After all, it's created



trademark Armstrong, under licence.

INARCO (Micos: Bombay: 12-A, 'Advent', Gen. Bhosale Marg, Bombay 400 021, Ph. 2022621, 2022213. * Dilli: Ph. 3712049, 3712253, 3324418 * Calcutta Ph. 444990, 432768 * Madras: Ph. 475191, 476596, 479186.







Who Could Predict This End?



Where the astrologers went wrong

'In the Stars' (May 12) was such a stupid topic to have as a cover story, but I read it with great interest nevertheless.

Anurag Bagaria, Calcutta

■ What was new about the predictions by these pundits? The common man is also expecting the Congress(I) to win and Rajiv Gandhi to become the Prime Minister.

Svamal Guptu and Suchi Guptu, Calcutta

You have confused the voters even more with these predictions. One astrologer says Rajiv Gan-dhi will remain PM for the full term while another says after two years another leader will emerge in the Congress party elections. Whom are we to believe? Rakesh Verma, Calcutta

Thanks for the diverse

views of the astrologers; they made fascinating reading. But if astrology is a science, then how is that different astrologers have different views? They should all have come to one conclusion.

S.P. Bhattacharya. Burdwan

■ All the astrologers had their say, but not one of them could forecast the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. In that, they all failed miserably.

As usual, they tried to wriggle out of committing themselves by using dual meaning statements, but on this count they all missed the major happening.

To be specific, Shiv Shankar Bharti predicted a bright phase in Rajiv Gandhi's career. Prayag Ban-dopadhyay did predict a sensational political assassination, but actually exadding that he would head

the country once more. According to Bejan Daruwalla, Rajiv and V.P. Singh were to come closer and Acharya Raj predicted that Rajiv would be PM again. R. Narayanan also said that Rajiv would head a coalition and J.C. Luthra called his horoscope very strong and did not foresee any change in the AICC(I) lead-

Only Lachhmandas Madan saw the possibility of Rajiv being the PM as very remote and if at all he became PM, it would be for a very short period. K.S. Mohta,

Calcutta

■ You should have published ghost stories in-stead. You should also have published a footnote saying, "All predictions are subject to change after the election results have been announced. Subir Banerjee,

The Telegraph

9 JUNE 1991

Rajiv Gandhi has left behind three vulnerable. though gritty, persons: Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka. What does the future hold for this family which has seen more than its share of traumatic times?



Our team of photographers covered the last rites of Rajiv Gandhi. A selection.

SECTIONS

Panorama Talking Shop Heritage Inner Eye 7 Davs Junior Whirl

Quiz Comics

Candid Camera

ver hostile desert terrain a new US
Army M-1A1 tank rumbles
through a sandstorm, the lenses
on its viewing ports and periscopes protected by a lacquerlike coating of the hardest material on earth: diamond.

In a home kitchen a cook chops food on the ceramic tile counter top with a gourmet knife that remains razorsharp-thanks to its coating of synthetic diamond.

In factories and oil fields superhard cutting tools and drill bits, coated with diamond, last indefinitely. Diamond films coat eyeglass and camera lenses, stereo speakers, nuclear reactors, bearings, artificial joints. High-performance diamond transistors displace traditional silicon in computer chips and other electronic products.

If experts in materials science are correct, diamond soon may become everyone's best friend, finding application in these and a wide variety of other military, industrial and commercial products.

With relatively little fanfare diamond films have emerged as the most dazzling new wonder material of the 1990s. "We may be moving into the diamond age, says Boris Deryagin of the Institute of Physical Chemistry in Moscow. He and his associates pioneered the new technology responsible for diamond's sudden ascendancy.

The technology provides a relatively

DIAMOND AGE?

A shower of snowlike plastic fragms hts spurts upward from the diamond tipped tool that cuts a contact lens from a dear plastic hatton and tinset: At a factory in the Soviet city of Pollaya a technicum uses a base drill to finish an aroficial diamond drill far

simple way for coating objects with thin films of synthetic diamond and diamondlike material. It thus can give metals, ceramics, plastics and even paper all the remarkable physical and chemical properties of diamond, at a fraction of the cost of the real thing. The American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific organisation, named diamond films the most significant scientific development of 1990.

The National Academy of Sciences, which advises the US government on science and technology, gave an even more sparkling evaluation in a 1990 study: "The ability to deposit diamondlike coatings on a variety of substrates is one of the most important technological develop-

ments in the past decade.

Diamond has several highly desirable properties in addition to its well-known hardness. It conducts heat better than any other solid material-about four times better than silver or copper. As a result it is a superb material for eliminating hot spots caused by friction on drill bits, bearings and milling-machine shafts

Diamond carries the heat away rapidly, decreasing wear. Because diamond also is a good electrical insulator, diamond films have potential applications as "heat

sinks in integrated circuits.

Building faster, more powerful computers requires packing transistors closer together on integrated-circuit chips. But circuit designers are stymied by heat produced by the components. Heat must be carried away by oftencumbersome cooling systems, or it will literally fry the circuit.

Coating components with diamond film could eliminate the need for cooling systems, resulting in faster, smaller computers. Indeed, the crown jewel in the new diamond technology may involve actually making transistors from dia-

mond instead of silicon.

Diamond's characteristics as a semiconductor make it superior to silicon for a number of electronic applications. These include transistors for high-power microwave amplifiers, and radiation-resistant sensing devices and emergency equipment inside nuclear reactors.

Another diamond charcteristic-extreme chemical inertness-opens up another range of applications for diamond films.

Even when exposed to strong acids, alkalis or other chemicals, diamond does not corrode. Diamond-coated valves, nozzles, bearings and other components could function reliably in jet and rocket motors, for instance, or in chemicalmanufacturing plants.

Chemical inertness means biological inertness, making diamond an ideal material for coating artificial joints connecting human bones and other medical implants.

Diamond's superior optical properties would mean scratchproof coatings on eveglasses, better mirrors for reflecting high-powered laser beams and improved optical data-storage disks.

Technology for making diamond coat ings is relatively simple but distinctly different from that used for more than 35 vears to make synthetic industrial and gem-quality diamonds.

The conventional diamond-making pro-L cess, developed by the General Electric Co. in the early 1950s, involves extremely high temperatures and pressures.

Graphite-which, like diamond, is a form of carbon-and a catalyst are squeez ed together in a special press. At pressures up to 1.8 million pounds per square inch-matching those 240 miles below the earth's surface-and temperatures up to 4,400 degrees Fahrenheit, graphite changes from a soft, greaselike substance into hard, crystalline diamond.

Is the wonder substance soon going to become man's best friend? Michael Woods takes a hard look

Industrial diamonds lack the sparkle of gemstones but possess all of natural diamonds'other characteristics. These synthetic diamonds produced in the high pressure, high-temperature process are used mainly in tools for cutting and grinding.

Diamond films, in contrast, are produced in a low-temperature, low-pressure process called chemical-vapour deposition. The object receiving a diamond coating is placed in a deposition chamber along with the raw material for synthesising a diamond film

The material must be a hydrocarbon, a molecule consisting of hydrogen and carbon atoms. Scientists have experimented with an assortment of raw materials. Diamond films reportedly have been made. for instance, from both vodka and sake. Usually, however, the raw material is methane, or marsh gas.

Colourless and odourless, methane is the main component of natural gas. It is the simplest of all hydrocarbons, consisting of a central atom of carbon surrounded by four atoms of hydrogen.

Heating the gas rips molecules of methane into their components, atoms of carbon and hydrogen. The carbon deposits itself onto the surface of the object Depending on the conditions inside the chamber, the carbon will deposit either as diamond or diamondlike material that has many of diamond's characteristics.

Boris Deryagin and his associates in Moscow began work in the 1950s. In 1956 Deryagin and Dimitri Fedoseyev filed an "author's certificate the Soviet equivalent of a patent application for a method of growing diamond films from a hydrocarbon gas.

But their first scientific report on successful growth of thin films of diamond was not published until 1977 in an obscu-

re Soviet scientific journal.

Deryagin responded with a grimace and a shrug when asked why Soviet industry did not exploit the diamond-film tech nology. But Soviet officials openly acknowledge their inability to capitalise on many basic research findings.

For almost a decade after the 1977 report, other scientists largely overlooked commercial and industrial applications of the technology. Some doubted whether the Russians actually had grown films of diamond. Many others were simply unaware of the Russian achievement.

Japanese scientists, however, were quietly working on the technology. In 1985 they published a series of reports that stimulated worldwide interest in diamond films.

Since then hundreds of industry and university research groups around the world have developed a keen interest in

the new technology.

Citing Japan's unparalleled ability to rapidly transform new laboratory discoveries into commercial products, Deryagin predicted years ago that Japanese industry would become the world leader in diamond films. That prediction has become reality, according to the National Academy of Sciences study, which was completed in summer 1990.

It found that Japan leads the world in diamond-film research and development

Of 573 patents on the new diamond technology granted during the past five years, 488 went to Japanese companies and only 28 to American companies.

The first consumer product to use a diamond film was a stereo speaker tweeter marketed by Japanese electronics companies. Diamond speakers reproduce highfrequency sounds with greater fidelity than conventional tweeters. Used on the resonating of the speaker, diamond combines light weight with great rigidity-characteristics essential for reproduction.

Years from now the speakers may be remembered as clarions that heralded a whole galaxy of other glittering new diamond-film products

(National Geographic News Service)

66 TX7 hich way is Ballygunge, Babu?"

Metro cinema hall, Esplanade. The matinee show had just got over. People spilled out onto the footpath. A tiny voice repeated the question, "Which way

is Ballygunge?"

One gentleman in the milling crowd peeped into the face which belonged to the voice. A 10-year-old boy, hungry and lost looking. "Why, my boy, Ballygunge is quite a distance from here. Where are you from?" The boy replied that he had come from Uttarpara (connected to Calcutta by train and long distance buses, a distance unthinkable on foot). Been walking since morning. But why? It was like this. He had a sister who came to Ballygunge every morning to work as a maid and returned home when the day was done. The night before she had failed to return. And so, that morning the anxious parents had sent their only other child to look for the sole breadearner. It had taken him all day to reach Calcutta. And now he did not know the way to Ballygunge. Would somebody kindly direct him?

The gentleman explained that he ought to take a tram. No, thank you, he would rather walk the distance. Comprehending the situation, the man offered him the tram fare but it was indignantly refused. He was not there to beg, he just needed to know the way. However, the money was thrust into the little fist with a lot of persuasion, and the donor went home, feeling satisfied

with the day's good deed.

Six months later. Metro cinema hall. The matinee show had just got over. The same gentleman passing by. Out of the milling crowd, there came a tiny voice that had a familiar ring, "Babu, which way is

Ballygunge?"

Begging, in India, is a profession. You could be a surgeon, a lawyer, an executive. Or a beggar. With an income that may even equal those of the rest. Begging is the only all-profit, no-loss business that needs no other capital investment but brains. And involves professional skills no ordinary man could ever dream of. Emotional blackmailing being one of them.

The more humane among us often harbour a slight sense of guilt that we are able to afford a better living than most of our fellow beings. And it is this feeling that prompts us to be more generous than we intend to be. Moreso, if there is a 'genuine' reason to offer alms. This is just where emotional blackmailing comes in.

On a dream-quiet afternoon, there is a knock on your door. Callers: two womens. One, a pleasantly dressed, pretty, young lady. The other, by all appearances, a maid. It is the maid who does the talking. She had been working as a part-timer in this lady's house, when the young lady's

BEGGARS,

husband was suddenly taken ill (with tuberculosis) and lost his job. The young couple had no earning now to pay the medical bills, let alone their house rent. With nowhere to go, they had come to live in their faithful maid's slum dwelling.

While the maid speaks, the pretty lady seems to be dying of shame behind her saree pallav. You give them a generous amount. The 'maid'accepts it with profuse thanks and the lady gives you an apologetically grateful look, appealing enough to melt even the hardest of hearts. They walk down the steps, away from your life. You pause by the door for a moment, with perhaps a prayer in your heart for the young man's recovery. Just then, breaking

They come in all shapes and sizes. They use novel modus operandi. They are no beggars, they claim. And you would be surprised how easily they get away with it.

Sohini Sen describes

some examples you could look out for

in on your thoughts, the staircase echoes with the sound of gleeful laughter.

Unbelievable though it may sound, this is not the figment of a fertile imagination. Begging, as we said, is big business. And just as any big business has some sort of an organisation running it, begging, too, is most often an organised racket. To trace it to the source may even prove dangerous. Deal with it in a positive way, you might say. Strike at the root of the evil. Why do people beg? Because they are poor. Why don't they work? Because they are illiterate. Come on, let's do something. Let's make them literate.

Wait a second. Did we hear you opt for a literacy drive? You would not offer alms to a beggar. But you would readily help a student who did not have money to buy textbooks, wouldn't-you?

Welcome aboard the Bandel local train.

On any busy weekday, just as you jostle with the daily passengers and their attache cases and edge towards the nearest vacant seat, there will be a boy, waiting. You settle down with a sense of victory and the boy approaches you. He is the student you have been looking for. He has just passed his fourth standard examination and does not have the money to pay for his fifth standard books. He will show you all his fourth standard textbooks. Ask him to recite a poem from one of them, he will, flawlessly. Ask him how much is eight



times 13, he will know the answer.

Pleased with the test, you give him the sum he needs for books, or at least half of it. And while you help lead him to the altar of knowledge, you might happen to notice the fellow sitting next to you. He snorts and looks away. No, he is not being heartless. It's just that the boy you gave money to is another 'regular'. He will forever be in fourth standard. Forever (or at least til he looks too old for the role) be the poor, meritorious student. Only, since you are not a daily passenger, you will never get the chance to expose him. And, fortunately for most such frauds, nobody usually cares enough to take that much of pains.

ALL...

And so, beggars exist. About two lakhs of them in West Bengal alone, by an old statistical report of 1985 and 10 lakhs all over India. Changing their tactics to suit the times, to suit their needs. Come to think of it, most beggars are excellent actors. One could run an entire film institute with them.

An instance. Driving down the executive infested Park Street, would anyone imagine that the young woman in rags begging for the starved child in her arms is not really its mother—bears no relation to

tor, had a son studying in London. Vagrant, who?

The gentleman beggar is part of a very special breed. Dangerous, because you don't know them for what they are until much later. One such usually accosts vehicles at the crossroads near the Police Training School. With a tin marked with the familiar red cross. There is also a line printed on the tin that tells you you have just paid towards the welfare of motor accident victims. The man has been at the same place for at least four years now, occasionally replaced by a woman accomplice. Over the years he has also grown a prosperous little paunch. One wonders if the Red Cross really employs such men. And, of course, Calcutta's accident rate is apparently pretty high to keep him constantly on the job!

can ever be expressed in a 1.5-inch ad. Answering the advertisement, a gentleman visited them one afternoon. He was from Asansol. Had an eligible younger brother who would be just the right bridegroom, handsome, young, an engineer by profession.

The gentleman got on famously with the Dasgupta family and conversation flowed. Just by the way, he also owned three cinema halls in Asansol. After the marriage, the Dasguptas simply had to visit their niece, and all the cinema halls, too.

When everything under the sun had been discussed, the gentleman left to catch the train home. But returned after a few minutes, without his composure, looking absolutely flurried. Had he left his purse here? The whole drawing room was



it but for a partnership in the duping business? Such children, as well as such mothers, are for hire. And at the end of the day, all the coins given towards their welfare would land up in the dark dens that breed beggars—feed them for their eight hour day's work.

Not that there aren't vagrant homes. There are. But then, who is a vagrant? One who leads a wandering life?

The Shyambazar-Barrackpore bus halted at the Tobin Road stop. The conductor needed to change a Rs 100 note. He jumped down, approached an old beggar with a tin tumbler in his hand. Got his Rs 100 note changed and jumped back. That beggar, if you believed the conduc-

There was a time when beggars straightaway asked for alms. And you had a choice. You could help with cash or kind. Then you started to have doubts about their need for begging—it seemed the easiest way to earn a living. And they started to think up devious means—to fool you into paying more than the alms you would rather not give. That was the first overlapping of fields of expertise. Of beggars becoming commen. You began to turn away from them on the streets. They began to get into your home.

Mrs and Mr Dasgupta of Calcutta had advertised in the matrimonial column for their niece. The usual; wanted a bridegroom type, wanting a lot more than searched, fruitlessly The man flopped down on the sofa. He had had Rs 500 in the purse that must have been lifted. How was he to go home?

Mrs Dasgupta called her husband aside and said that they ought to offer Rs 20 to help the man out. After all, he was almostarelative. But how could you offer him only Rs 20 when he owned three cinema halls and went about with Rs 500 in his pocket? The problem was resolved with a Rs 100 note and the gentleman went away with a promise. To come back with his brother in a week for the final wedding arrangements.

That was the last they ever saw of him.

In the narrow confines of the Burdwan Jail, he created excitement. Burning eyes, curly hair and the abstracted air of a fanatical poet. He was there for murder, politics and for love, though murder was what was common to all three. Outside, all over the country, they whispered that he was a Naxalite and that his family boasted his trademark was a single stab wound under the left shoulder blade.

While jailed for politics, he had simply faded out of the iron bars to kill a man who had dared marry his girlfriend. And despite that murder, too, his girlfriend and his parents were in the prison begg-

ing that he be let out on bail.

The force was agog and adamant to a man that he should not be let out. The only dissenting voice was that of one woman. "I suppose women look at these things differently, even though they are part of the police force. I knew his criminal record, but I couldn't reconcile him with it. He'd murdered this girl's husband but that didn't stop her from coming and begging for him to be let out on bail. There had to be something more to him than met the eye..."

Despite TV programmes and Hindi films, policewomen are rare commodities. One glimpses them in blue bordered white saris directing traffic in Dalhousie areas with only their blue blouses to distinguish them from Mother Teresa's sisters. The khaki pants and belted tunics are reserved for special hands—on action situations, along with the baton and the revolver TV and film heroines, however, have the option to sport them whenever they like, unless they are planning to slip into the even more exciting plainclothes



THE FAIR ARM

mode, in which case the sky is the limit as far as dress goes and the story stretches into something on the lines of Dimple Kapadia's Zakhmee Aurat.

To become a policewoman one applies, mundanely, to an advertisement in the newspapers. A graduation is required for most posts, though non-graduates, too, can apply for certain positions.

An examination of general knowledge follows. The papers are screened and then the District Authorities select the final candidates. A six month intensive training programme follows, held at the Police Training School and at Lalbazar. The course covers the Penal Code and the intricacies of criminal law. In fact, an interest in criminology is an abiding asset to a would-be policewoman.

There are physical exercise classes for which recruits are equipped with salwar kameezes, and which cover some of the basic martial arts like judo, along with exercises like rope climbing and wall scaling. And there are classes in mark-smanship, where months are spent in learning to shoot on target and loading and reloading revolvers and learning how many bullets go into how many rounds of fire. These arts are then tested in a comprehensive examination which covers both the practical and the theoretic side of the matter. The results are screened and postings are assigned.

Not all the postings need necessarily be for Calcutta. Courses and examinations are held on a need-based schedule. Sometimes for the whole state and sometiSo you want to be a policewoman?

Anjana Basu finds out what it takes to be one

mes just for the main city. And while the courses are just for new recruits, the examinations recur at every stage of a police woman's career.

In Calcutta, a policewoman can rise to the heights of Assistant Commissioner if she passes her examinations and satisfies



may well be out of Calcutta to somewhere like Burdwan. The women recruits are provided with quarters, which they share on a house rent allowance

Life in the districts can be both slower and faster than life in Calcutta. There are general thana duties to learn, like the writing of diaries. Everything that happens in a district thana, or in any thana, for that matter, from a freak storm that struck last night at 11.30 pm, to a chicken falling down a well, to a drunk singing a certain song as he sways on his way home, is supposed to be recorded in the pages of a thana diary, so that nothing happens within the jurisdiction of that thana, whether in the districts or in Calcutta, without the police being aware of it. "The police know about everything that happens, even though, occasionally, the public thinks that they don't.'

In Burdwan there are a series of leather bound log books dating back to 1785, with cases and happenings documented in painfully careful calligraphy. "But then there were fewer people to deal with and life was less complicated. Every little kotwali had its clerk and its kotwal...now it just isn't possible to run a thana that way. The modus operandi has totally changed..."

You learn to note down the happenings, keeping a practised eye on the ones that seem to fall into a pattern, seem to lead up to something. There are regular visits to the Court, people are charged or released on bail, cases are heard, prisoners are marched back and forth from jail

ing when information comes in, with detailings of duty and the plotting out of the exact circumstances of entry.

And then there are cases of a totally different nature, like the art of dealing with runaways. The film Bobby triggered off more elopements than Romeo and Juliet. All at once, the country was full of teenage girls passionately eloping with their barely out of teens boyfriends, leaving fathers and families to tramp angrily to their local thanas to file cases, complaining that their daughters had been kidnapped and ruined by dissolute young men they hardly knew.

"The whole thing was obviously done," said one policewoman, "with an eye to making sure that nothing spoilt the reputations of these girls before they got married. The result was that a lot of girls were getting away scot free while the boys ended up in jail...and in most of these cases, the boy and girl had been going around for months before the thing happened, so it obviously had nothing to do with entrapment at all. However, the Indian Penal Code is very strict on such matters—probably the one time it is in favour of women..."

Being a policewoman is certainly no job for the squeamish or the soft hearted. There are far too many things to deal with for anyone with any softness to survive, even though the policewoman can be as gentle as she likes outside the precincts of her duties. Directing the traffic and logging the happenings in the thana are probably the least complicated things she can do.

If she can survive the one and a half

OF THE LAW

the screening panel that she has the right combination of experience and knowledge and administrative capabilities. On the State front, a woman can become an Inspector or a DSP before her career comes to a halt. West Bengal currently boasts one woman Inspector, though no one here has yet reached the peaks of a Kiran Bedi.

"It's difficult for a woman. There are things like age bars..and other things..I basically believe women are not cut out to be police officers or whatever it is..." So said the daughter of a police officer who had been inspired by her father's example into joining the force and who had left it after barely two years.

For the new recruit who qualifies to become a policewoman, the first posting

to court. There are trips to the District Enforcement Branch and the District Intelligence Branch.

In the districts there are regular patrols, with a sharp eye out for smuggling. Opening bags and bundles, stopping suspicious lorries or lonely bullock carts late at night. "At that time the movement of rice on the State borders was strictly controlled because there was a lot of illegal trafficking between the States. There were also a lot of raids on houses because that was the time MISA had been enforced. As a result, you met a lot of politicians at odd hours of the night..."

A policewoman has to be taught how to raid a house. Raid meeting apparently takes place a night or so before, depend-

year of her training and her probation then she has a rigorous career in front of her, with exams before every stage of progress. And she has her age and her sex as weakening factors when she comes into competition with the men. And around every corner lurk all the other problems that dog a woman in pursuit of any other career without even having to get into the immediately job related problems of how to interrogate a difficult prisoner or deal with violence when it confronts you. Not even being the daughter of a policeman can prepare you for that, because police officers off duty are very different from police officers on duty. "The policeman's lot," said a song, "is not a happy one." Not one has yet said anything on the lot of a policewoman.

♦ ome spring, those fleeting moments when new leaves are born, a creeping fear begins to haunt the Calcuttan's mind. Can monsoon be far behind? One or two untimely showers are followed by sunshine again. The ordeal is still some months away, he tells himself. The feeling is akin to the fear of the ultimate end which mortals in prime of youth scoff at, or the philosophy of a diehard smoker who ignores the statutory warning. Shakespeare advises, "Will come when it will come."

Volumes have been written, discussed and visually depicted about the pitiable condition of Calcutta roads over the years. Much water has flowed down the Ganga in the meantime. Perhaps a near equivalent quantity of cusecs of water has also flowed alongside down the waterlogged thoroughfare of the city. The Calcuttan no longer cares for the routine assurances of road repairs that are repeated every yearonce before the monsoon, once before the Pujas and once by the yearend. The scenario is familiar. The malady, however, persists, nay thrives.

They say, if you throw a coin to the sea, you are promptly paid back in your own coin. Likewise, the ingredients of a few patches mended on Calcutta roads, before monsoon, come back to the tax-payers—chips, bitumen, khoa, et al, after only a few showers.

People hailing from other parts of the country where asphaltic pavement provides smooth sailing for the commuters, the vehicle damage factor being negligible, however, need not necessarily shed copious tears for the people of Calcutta, who trudge along deathtraps branded as 'Uday Shankar Avenue' by local engineers, which the vehicles negotiate in simulated 'Tanda-'a Nritya' fashion during the tras. In fact, the exercise Polithe years has elevated The cans to a glorified and the infi, status, shoulders interest in privileged rest of to a would-

ROADWORTHY

were being denied the basic amenities of the city life, a new term, "the spirit of Calcutta", crept into circulation.

Thus, nowadays, the more the waterlogging, the worse the roads, the higher reads the barometer, measuring the undying spirit of Calcuttans—a fact endorsed by foreigners who invariably feature in couoffice hours. The Calcutta Tramways Company and the Calcutta State Transport Corporation withdraw their services the moment it starts pouring, leaving pedestrians to do the long arch from Dalhousie to Ballygunge, Salt Lake or Jadavpur, over varying distances not less than eight to 10 kms. So if you want to spend

Every Calcuttan who goes up and down the city is certainly that!

ples in English dailies during the rains. While wading through waist-deep water they are infected, among other things, by this spirit which is so heady that it lingers even when they are back to Los Angeles or London—a kind of nostalgia that brings them back to the city again. A point to be noted down by the tourism authority in the year of International Tourism.

The state of roads also provides some indirect benefits to officegoers during the monsoon. In Calcutta, it invariably pours heavily just after the

your time once a while in a bar or in some cosy nook with company of your liking and not necessarily approved by your spouse, you may do so and limp back home at 11, avoiding routine teaching of your kid in subjects like mathematics and English. Nobody will doubt the alibi that you could not board the only available Noah's arc from Howrah, floating somewhere near Raj Bhavan. In fact, your split second delay in boarding anything that floats may cost you a good Rs 25 to Rs 30 and four hours of time. Your return may not be as ex-



citing as Robinson Crusoe's. But if you recount the ways and means you may become a family hero overnight.

The unmatched feeling of home-coming experienced every evening is a monsoon special, thanks to the city roads as they are. As regards your after-office whereabouts, rest assured they cannot be verified as telephone cables are mostly laid below the roads under water and are understandably out of order for the entire rainy season. Your claim of being delayed in office inordinately after office hours also goes unchallenged.

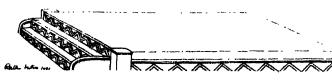
The voyeurs, stalking the city roads during the monsoon months, have a gala time witnessing saris lifted to alarming heights, baring lissome legs that could make Marlene Dietrich envious. The raindrenched female forms in sari. kurta and jeans could pose a threat to Hindi film heroines. The sight of a brand new marooned Maruti or Contessa in the waterway entitles you to flash a vicarious grin while you may yourself be floating past, sliding up and down the pole of a minibus—a feeling which could perhaps be shared by the monkey, too, had he been suitably informed while you toiled vainly to find out the time of his ascent along the greased pole in your school days. Or probably it will embolden you to face your wife with a renewed logic against buying a car for riding on Calcutta roads, Gulf or no Gulf. The money could be safely invested to earn 80 CCA relief. For the benefit of the average Calcuttan venturing the city roads in the monsoon, the president of Indian Roads Congress in his published message in leading dailies, set a target for construction of ideal road network in the country, connecting all villages by the year, hold your breath, 2001! Till such time let the inhabitants of the 300-year-old villages of Sutanuti, Govindpur and Kolkata keep trudging along the slush, splash and plonk of the Charnock city roads, enhancing its undying spirit.

Soumitra Sinha



UTTARAYAN





Rabindranath Tagore's ideal of education found expression in the 'Poet's School', built in a secluded spot, two miles from Bolpur railway station in West Bengal's Birbhum district. The place was named Santiniketan (abode of peace) by the Poet's father, Maharshi Devendranath Tagore. The Poet's idea of establishing a centre of learning "where the whole world would meet in a comprehensive communion of culture" led to the founding of the Visva Bharati on December 22, 1921 at Santiniketan.

In 1919 when Tagore returned from his Assam trip immediately after the Pujas, he did not stay at his familiar house, Dehali. Instead, he

moved to Uttarayan, a hut with thatched roof built specially for Tagore according to his wishes on the northern complex of the ashram. Here, students and teachers would assemble every evening when the Poet would often narrate various literary works, like Whitman's Leaves of Grass, Edward Carpenter's Towards Democracy, poems of Browning and translations of Japanese poems. The translations of Lacing's Nathan the Wise and excerpts from Personality (a collection of lectures in the US) would also figure in the discussions.

Today, Uttarayan is not the same little hut; it is now like any other house of brick, ce-

ment and concrete. In fact, Uttarayan is the collective name for an interesting group of buildings that were used by Tagore at some time or the other during his days at Santiniketan. A portion of the main building in this group is known as the Rabindra Bhavana which houses the unique collection of the Poet's published works, his paintings, manuscripts of his writings and other material related to his life and works.

Rabindra Bhavana is actually the creation of Tagore's son, Rathindranath, who was assisted by Surendranath Kar. Subsequently, Rathindranath donated the Bhavana to Visva Bharati. RIES

March 21-April 20

The main trends of the week are excelient job prospects, loans, funds, journey, trading and brokerage. You will fuse business and joy superbly. Finance is what the week gives stress on. This and the next week favour travel and strictly speaking the travel bug will bite you. Do not worry about your health and it will not worry VOU.

AURUS

April 21--- May 20 Romance, marriage, alliances at all levels,

collaborations and trips constitute the week. Romance involves passion and protection. In finance, collaborations, loans, mortgage and security come your way. Nothing in excess should be the guiding principle.

EMINI

May 21-June 20 Hard work, recognition and a bit of playacting are the week's main trends. Health safeguards are

necessary. Finance promises perks and possibility of a promo-tion is likely. Romance will be a wicket full of runs Finish pending chores this week. Expenses, buying, selling and a home away from home are foretold.

ANCER

June 21-July 20 Children, childbirth, work pressures, con-

tacts, good luck, creativity, functions, ceremonies, hobbies and happy events constitute the week. Romance will be in happy and handsome measures. Money is your birthright and you shall have it in a fortnight. You will be on the road to recovery, so why fret and fume? Visitors will descend upon you and you will feel wanted.

EO July 21—August 21 The domestic scene may undergo a sea change and differences are likely. You will have to strike a balance betwen work and love. Children will give satisfaction. Home, property and business will be interlinked.

IRGO

August 22-Sept 22 Happy entertaining and galety are foretold this week. You will not neglect your

















duty and therefore you will be happy. In romance, you will sizzle and scintillate and that's saying something! The week promises not only a fast buck but future prospects on a long-range basis are bright. Travel and correspondence will make an ideal team. You will certainly overcome health problems.

IBRA

Sept 23-Oct 22 The focus this week will be on buying, sell-

ing, trading, negotiating, investing, loans, travel and ties. Romance will be exciting. Health may pose slight hassles, but you can glide over them. The home and family will involve renovation, entertainment and decoration to keep you busy and happy.

CORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 22 The highlights of the

week are romance and marriage or secret ties. You will accomplish much. Both personal and professional affairs receive a rocket boost. The singing bird is definitely coming to sit on

your bough. This week promises opportunity and the next 55 days will show happy results. Expect visitors to drop in and get your travel kit ready, too. Healthwise, you will be fit and fine. The home and family may involve a visit from the stork.



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23-Dec 20 Journey, religious rites, ceremonies,

collaborations, travel and heavy expenses constitute the week. Contacts, correspondence and love have a definite connection. Outlets in sales, commission and brokerage, and collaborations and knowhow are foretold. Work and pleasure may require you to travél.

> **APRICORN** Dec 21-Jan 19

The highlight of this week is help and love from known and unknown quar-

ters. Good news elevates you. Finalise travel plans and catch up on correspondence and contacts. Romance will be fervent and fantastic. In finance, anticipate transactions, settlements, loans, new enterprise and better prospects in job or profession. Get set to travel. You will be riding high and health will not

> **QUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

come in the way.

Romance and the power game, new assignments and law suits, and tangles and entertainment are all foretold in a grand paradox. Wait a week at the most for lions to roar in your blood. Finance promises promotion, opportunities, new outlets, perks and a change of scenery. This is the right time to move, act, contact and correspond. Vexations could tell upon your health unless you learn to rest, play, meditate and

pray.

ISCES

Feb 19-March 20 Loans, funds, capital

raising, friendships, entertainment, time to ask for favours and hectic socialising make up the week. You will do well in financial matters. In romance, you experience tender love to a torrid affair. Except for untoward happenings, lapses and accidents, all should go splendidly. The domestic scene involves buying, selling, refur-bishing, shopping and entertain-

BIRTHDAYS

June 9

Moon trine Uranus: Marriage, lasting friendship, business connections and success are promlsed. Travel plans will be final-

June 10

This sextile refers to opportunities for artists, scientists, agricul-turists, chemists and most certainly the common man. Look forward to promotion and happiness. It would be best to be a ple and humble for that will about the affection of one and

June 11

Moon the Saturn: The end re-suit of your endeavours and ettempts will be pleasing end adjusted though you might have to atrupple for them. In love and personal matters, expect a little; luck. Cuttivate friends but also learn to rely upon yourself.

model company Moon conjunction Mercury: You will be able to amess wealth, apecially in business or profes-sion. Loans and funds will be evallable. Your love life will pick

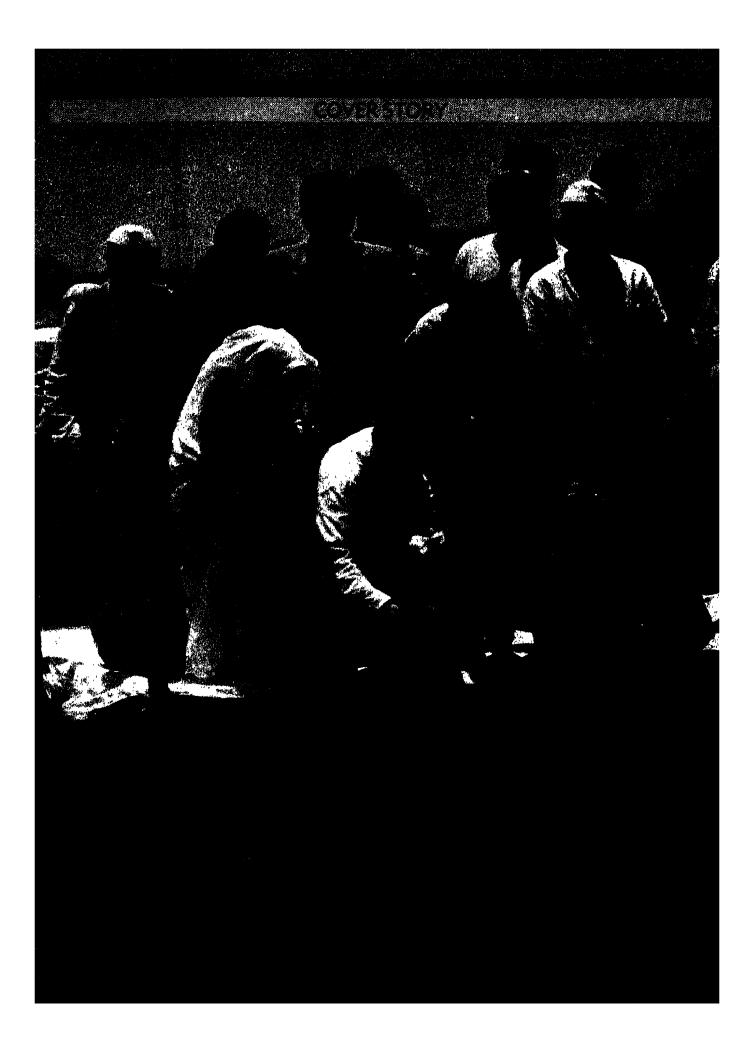
Moon opposition thanus: Your subject depends upon the effort you just in and persistence will be newlided. Many of you will be newlines: and hoping for a change of schinery, a house moving and a new jeb. Love will find wings.

June 14

Never allow disappointments, metancholia and misode to get the better of you. Pluto will help you be push, alpetd fand be imaginative and liknovative. Changes at some and in your paraonal tie will prove there goelle and past sheet for travely.

Meso digher perjurition: The continuous offers encourage ment and success as Moon relens to the mind will Jupiter to makey and general pros

every in your efficies and not let



othing was as touching as the last farewell to Rajiv Gandhi by Sonia and their children, Rahul and Priyanka, at the Sangam in Allahabad. Dressed in pure white, Rahul immersed the ashes, the last of his father's remains, from a boat with his mother and sister sitting beside him. Twenty-year-old Rahul, who had been a picture of stoic calm ever since his return from Harvard after his father's assassination, broke down in public for the first time. He then put his head in his mother's lap while an equally grief-stricken but more composed younger sister Priyanka rested hers on Sonia's shoulder. As the three Gandhis in the boat were locked in anguish, it seemed that a new kind of isolation had descended on the family.

When Rajiv Gandhi was alive, their VVIP status and the consequent security to ward off the ever-present threat to their lives had virtually kept them in a ring. The family was now small with the loss of Rajiv, but seemed to have grown closer and more private in their unhappy hour. Except for one brief moment when Sonia could not keep her tears in check when her husband's coffin was brought out from the special Indian Air Force plane from Madras at the Palam airport, and the flow of tears from Rahul's eyes now, the family had not shown its tears even to relatives and close friends. "There was no hysteria, no crying even before us, only a numbing sense of loss felt by Sonia and her two children," says Gautam Kaul, an uncle of Rajiv Gandhi. But Sonia's dark glasses at Teen Murti, where Rajiv's body lay in state, and during the funeral adjoining the Shakti Sthal were quiet evidence of the tears that must have flowed from her eves when no one was around except her two children. And when she removed her dark glasses on the day after the funeral to receive foreign delegations who came to condole her at 10 Janpath, the cameras found her eyes swollen.

It was Raiiv Gandhi's private secretary, V. George, who had communicated the shocking news to Sonia a little before 11 pm on May 21. Her immediate reaction is not known, but relatives who dropped in a little later found Sonia in a state of shock but quite composed otherwise. Nineteenvear-old Privanka, the younger of the two children of the Gandhis, who was with her mother at the time, was also calm and had immediately taken charge of the situation in order to spare her mother any unnecessary pressure in this crisis. Both mother and daughter packed their little bags and were soon ready to go to Madras to bring back the remains of their dear departed Rajiv.

The drive to the airport was in pin-drop silence and so was the journey to Madras. Garden Kaul, who accompanied them on

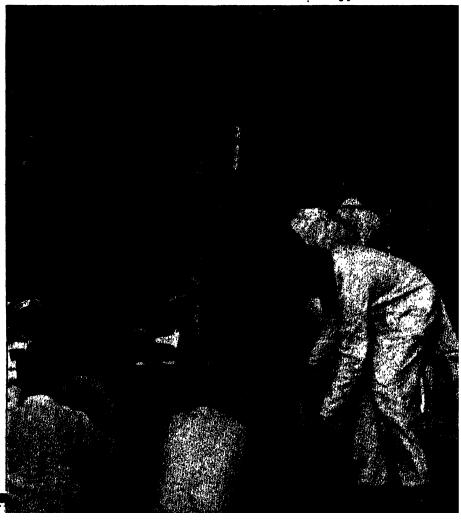
the flight, recalls, "It was one of the quietest flights we had ever undertaken. We were all completely stunned and finding it very difficult to fathom that Rajiv was no more." A couple of hours later, the plane landed at the Madras airport and the family and friends who went on the flight were taken to the old VIP lounge, the very same place where Rajiv Gandhi had rested on arrival at Madras the same morning.

Rajiv Gandhi leaves
behind three vulnerable,
though gritty, souls:
Sonia, Rahul and
Priyanka. And lonesome
days are ahead. SEEMA
PAUL files this poignant
report

Twenty minutes later, the body of Rajiv was brought there from the hospital after a post-mortem examination had been done. Gautam Kaul and R.K. Dhawan transferred the body from the hospital coffin to a more stately wooden coffin provided by the Tamil Nadu government. Sonia and Priyanka did not express any desire to be left alone with the body for a while or to even see it. They seemed resigned to fate.

Minutes later, the body of the slain security guard of Rajiv Gandhi also arrived and both the coffins were loaded on the Indian Air Force plane for the return journey. The chairs had been removed from inside the plane and white sheets spread out atop a carpet for the coffins. Sonia and Priyanka sat on the two sides of Rajiv's coffin, looking sadder than ever and absolutely quiet. Family members took turns to sit with them throughout the journey. Priyanka repeatedly hugged her father's coffin on flight while Sonia maintained dignified composure befitting the wife of a slain former Prime Minister. When she noticed that the coffin of the killed security guard was bare she picked up some flow-

Amitabh Bachchan and Gautam Kaul collect wood for the pyre





ers from her husband's coffin and placed them on his coffin.

The body arrived at the Palam airport at 8.30 am on May 22. Very few people were present outside the airport as the official timing for the arrival of the flight was 11 am. A hush descended on the airport as the coffin was brought out and Sonia, for the first and only time, let out a sob, before the President, R. Venkataraman. He put his arm around Sonia and took her aside to solace her. Priyanka remained her mother's biggest source of strength throughout the period of initial trauma. She constantly kept by her mother's side and held her hand to reassure her that she was not alone.

While Sonia went to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences with her husband's body for embalming and plastic surgery of the once handsome face, Priyanka went straight to the residence to supervise the arrangements for receiving her father's coffin in the house. She immediately got the large front room of their private quarters cleared and had white sheets spread out on the carpet. A tulsi plant was kept at the spot where Rajiv's coffin was placed on arrival soon after. The doctors had found Rajiv's face completely blown off and there was no scope for doing plastic surgery. There was no need either for embalming the body as the faceless body could not be shown to the public for a last glimpse.

Nor did the family have any last glimpse of the dead Rajiv Gandhi. The body remained undisturbed wrapped in the national tricolour. While the pandits chanted mantras at home, Sonia was seen arranging the ice around her husband's coffin. She immediately took the decision to keep the body in waiting as long as possible to enable not just her son to return from Harvard for the last rites, but also to give time to the people of Amethi, her hus-

band's constituency, to reach Delhi by train to bid their last to their "bhaiva". The funeral was therefore fixed for the 24th evening.

Rahul finally arrived in Delhi on the 24th morning and was received by Priyanka whose long arms reached out to hug her brother in this moment of shared grief. Amitabh Bachchan, one of Rajiv's closest friends, also arrived soon after from London. Romi Chopra and Suman Dubey were also with the family throughout. Together with Amitabh, wife Jaya, younger brother Ajitabh and mother Teji, they are amongst the close circle of friends that the family has.

For the Gandhis, who had always wanted to remain as private a family as possible even after Rajiv accepted public office, the days to come are likely to be more painful than those they have already been through after the assassination. The ceremonies have kept them busy, but when the long stream of mourners at 10 lannath is over and their guards are down and life resumes its everyday course, it will be more difficult to cope with the loss. Rahul, in all likelihood, will return to Harvard to continue his course in government and Priyanka will stay back to complete her graduation from Jesus and Mary College in Delhi.

Gautam Kaul rules out the possibility of Sonia and her daughter moving out of India. "This is her country now," he says. "She has no plans of going anywhere, not even to Italy."

He also feels that Sonia is unlikely to accept the presidentship of the Congress(I) at least in the near future though he does not rule out her contesting the byelection from Amethi to become a Member of Parliament. "She is definitely not going to sit at home and knit; nor is she likely to accept public life in the manner

that the press wants her to. As of now, she prefers to be a private person."

The government has given Sonia and her family the choice of continuing to live in 10 Janpath. The house has been somewhat controversial and has seen the death of several inhabitants, including that of Sanjay Gandhi whose Youth Congress office was housed here. But, family friends feel, Sonia spares no thought for such things and would not want to shift simply for that reason. "This is the best house from the point of view of security," says Kaul, inspector-general with the Central Industrial Security Force.

A lot of Sonia and her children's memories must revolve around 10 Janpath. Some say Sonia may want to live in another house for precisely that reason. And that could well be the reason for Sonia to want to live in 10 Janpath, with the fond memories of her husband. Her decision would be a sure indication of her state of mind in the days to come.

or a woman who was the First Lady for nearly five years when Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister, it is surprising how little is known about Sonia by the vast majority of Indians. Even the Congressmen who had been pressing her to take over as president of the Congress(I) party, know very little about her. This is the result of a deliberate effort on the part of Sonia Gandhi to keep herself and ber family life as private as possible. Her revulsion to politics is one of the best known facts about her. She had, in fact, sought an assurance from Rajiv before they married that he would never join politics and had even threatened divorce if he entered the political arena.

Sonia met Rajiv in Cambridge where she was doing a language course. Rajiv first saw her in a Greek restaurant and was immediately taken up by her. He soon organised for them to meet through a friend and the decision to marry followed soon after. Sonia Maino came from Turin where her father was said to be running a successful construction business. But her one-time Italian friends in Delhi say that her father originally belonged to Sicily and was a Mussolini-sympathiser. He fled to Turin after the fall of Mussolini, where he made humble beginnings as a construction worker before becoming a successful businessman.

Sonia, the second of his three daughters, was always the more ambitious and hard-working, and supported herself at Cambridge by working as a governess of sorts. Her marriage into the Gandhi family is a much-talked about Cinderella tale in Turin and residents of every village of that region are said to claim that she belonged there, according to those Italian associates.

Continued on page 18

THE LAST POST



Continued from page 15

Rajiv and Sonia were both "family persons" and "extremely house-proud", says a friend who knew them before Rajiv's

star-crossed entry into politics. They loved going to parties and had a small but close circle of friends, which did not change very much even after he became

THEIR FATHER'S CHILDREN

Those who have worked in Rajiv Gandhi's house describe Rahul and Priyanka as the best behaved children they have ever met. They don't call anybody by name; referring to malis, chowkidars and other servants as "Bhaiya", the very word with which the residents of Amethi addressed their father. They do not call each other by name either, preferring to use "Bhaiya" and "Didi" instead.

The children have inherited not only the stoic calm that their father displayed when he lost his mother, but other traits as well. The friends and teachers of Priyanka, who will soon be entering final year at Jesus and Mary College, and Rahul, who spent a year at the history honours class at St Stephen's College before leaving for Harvard, de-

scribe them as dignified. Neither of the children is a show-off and both try to be as self-effasing as possible. Rajiv used to be quite like that himself. When somebody had enquired of him at Cambridge whether he bore any relationship to Mahatma Gan-dhi, he simply said he did not, without as much as even hinting that he was the relation of the famous Nehru. In Jesus and Mary College, teachers remark that they often come across children who love showing off their foreign connections. Suppose a particular book was not available in India; many students would come forward to get it from abroad, but Priyanka was never the one to do so. She is a regular student and if ever she misses a class, her teachers say, she quickly makes up for it and catches up with the others.

Sonia had once said in an interview that Priyanka was interested in politics, history and the arts. A newsman who was called to speak at the Jesus and Mary College on the controversial Mandal report when the students' agitation was at its peak in Delhi last year, found Phyanka amongst the audience.

Rajiv, too, had twice admitted his daughter's interest in politics in his interest; the last time to Simi Grewal. Lough he added that it was too early the state of the last that her father's his and that he has

but was dissuaded by her father's friend, Amitabh Bachchan, who told her that she should first complete her studies.

Rahul, on the other hand, does not have any inclination towards politics. He is, however, doing a course in government at the Harvard University. He was sent there as it was felt that there would be a security risk for him to study in a co-educational institution in Delhi. St Stephen's was also considered 'unsafe' as it is in the north Delhi campus that witnesses frequent strikes and other troubles. Rahul is believed to be doing quite well at Harvard and Rajiv had expressed great satisfaction to his friends about it.

Rahul's classmates at the Stephen's recall that he was never considered an outsider because he always made it a point to be part of the class. Never a backbencher, he was somewhere in the middle of his class of 80, both in merit and sitting arrangement. In a year when the history class fared particularly badly, he scored 51 per cent. narrowly making it to a second division. He was friendly with everybody and took an avid interest in sport. His main interest was in shooting events and it was his standing in the game that had secured his admission to the prestigious Delhi college for which his grades did not make him qualify. That had become quite controversial and more so his security about which he was very embarrassed. His seniors recall that he was very cooperative when they ragged him on the first day in college, readily agreeing to dance, sing and do any number of things they asked of him.

Though Rahul is said to be quite apolitical, he does take a lot of interest in international affairs and closely follows events in India. When George Fernandes of the Janata Dal was invited to Harvard to deliver a political lecture, Rahul was not only present in the audience, he later came forward to congratulate the veteran politician on his excellent speech. Fernander views could hardly be similar to his own father a, but that did not deter the warms lad from meaching out to the

Prime Minister. Whenever Rajiv was in Delhi, he would drive down his children to the junior Modern School in New Delhi where they began their studies.

Though life changed very much after Rajiv Gandhi entered politics and, moreso, after his mother's assassination in 1984, when he became Prime Minister, he continued to exhibit the same devotion to family and home, though he had much less time to spare for it. He always kept his home very separate from his office and even at 10 Janpath, which was Rajiv's last home, the family quarters and office existed almost in water-tight compartments. Nobody, except close family friends, found entry into their home. Many Congressmen went there for the first time only after Rajiv's assassination.

Doing up their home was a passion with the couple. Sonia would consult her husband on the way she set up the house, and judging from 10 Janpath, the emphasis was on comfort. It was not ornate, but artistically done up. Sonia has a good collection of British paintings on India and some of them are put up on the walls of their home. Art is one interest Sonia has in common with her estranged sister-in-law, Maneka. Sonia has, in fact, done a course in restoration of oil paintings at the Delhi Museum under its former director, L. Sihare. The latter remembers her as a dedicated, painstaking student who never missed a class and gave a lot of importance to quality and detail.

Though Sonia loved cooking for her husband, she kept a constant check on his weight. A journalist who was served gulab jamuns at his house remembers how he ate one and then seemed to want another. When the journalist politely offered him the plate, Rajiv looked at Sonia for her consent.

Sonia and Rajiv were also deeply interested in western classical music, but Rajiv had started turning more and more to Indian classical as political life kept him busy. So did Sonia. According to Gautam Kaul, their house used to be filled with Indian classical music, which Sonia had also begun to appreciate after she mastered its nuances. A little before he lost the elections in 1989, Rajiv had told a friend who asked what he would if he lost the elections. "That would be peace for me," he had said. "I shall just sit and listen to music with the children."

Their friends describe Rajiv and Sonia as a warm and graceful couple. Sonia never goes to any lunch without carrying a small gift for her hosts. "That is very much in keeping with her Mediterraneam culture," says Gautam Kaul. He feels her background helped her very much in endearing herself to the family as there are many shared customs between their culture and Indian culture. "There is a strong

'He counteracted any reprimand with a bewitching smile'

When I think of Rajiv, it is not the Prime Minister's image which comes to my mind but that of a lovely, sensitive boy with most beautiful eyes. That is how I remember him when 40 years ago he joined Elisabeth Gauba's experimental school where I was teaching since the Partition. Rajiv was a very quiet and shy boy. He was not specially interested in the usual studies and counteracted any reprimand with a bewitching smile which was enough to dissolve any firmness. He enjoyed drawing and would often draw aeroplanes.

I left the school and began to work for Mrs Gandhi. The boys (Rahul and Sanjay) left for Dehradun, first to Welham and then to the Doon School.

Memories of the Prime Minister's home come to my mind. Rajiv and Sanjay at the dining table listening intently to the grandfather explaining in great detail to their questions. They huddled in the bed with their mother, listening to stories. The floor of their room spread with mechano parts and they and their father engaged for hours in constructing different objects. This perhaps led to their interest in mechanical and technical aspects.

By Usha Bhagat

The shy, introvert Rajiv started to open up a little and make friends in the Doon School. By the time he returned from England, he was a very handsome, young man, less shy, more articulate and with the same charming smile.

He joined the Delhi Flying Chib, I thought as a hobby, until he mentioned one day that he wished to become a commercial pilot, Quite shocked, I told him that flying is very risky. He replied, smiling, that crossing a road is as risky!

risky!

The scene shifts to his marriage in 1968 in the rear garden of his mother's residence. The civil marriage ceremony was simple against a floral backdrop. Rajiv and Sonia, in love for some time, made a very handsome couple.

Rajiv, the pilot, spent his spare time in activities which interested him in music, photography, ham radio and getting update on various technical subjects. He grew into a meticulous, organised person, taking everything with precision and efficiency—be it in the house or at work. He expected the

same from others and found it difficult to reconcile to those not coming up to the standard.

Soon a loving couple grew into a family, and the house of Mrs Gandhi, for long a lonely person, was filled with joy and warmth.

This was not to last for long. Soon events began to overtake them. Political turmoil, Sanjay's air crash and then the tragic assassination of Mrs Gandhi. Rajiv was suddenly pitchforked into prime ministership. The period saw many ups and downs, glosnow moments as well as dismal ones. Now, when he seemed to be emerging from the fire towards a new hope, the curtain finally rings down in a most shocking and brutel manner.

When I think of Rajiv—the shy, young boy I knew years ago—I begin to wonder and question myself. Should he have not continued his earlier leisurely life surrounded by family, friends and interests? Should he have got involved in the rough and tumble, the coarseness of the politics that takes its toll on the life and person? The question is meaningless. Who can change destiny?

clannish spirit amongst those from the Mediterranean culture and Sonia transferred that feeling to her family and relations once she came into our family," he says.

Young Congressmen, who met Rajiv frequently, found it remarkable how Sonia would dutifully stand behind her husband without speaking a word. "If Rajiv kept standing for hours even though we could have the same discussion sitting on the chairs in the room, she would also keep standing behind him and would not even utter a word to suggest that we sit down."

Such was her aversion to politics that nobody could persuade her to speak at the public functions that Rajiv Gandhi attended. Her first public utterance was made at the Indian National Congress meeting in Bombay where, in response to prolonged shouts from the audience and coaxing by her husband, she stood up to say just two words: "Jai Hind."

Yet, for all her hatred for politics she always campaigned for her husband in

Alberta Berlin B

Amethi. Along with Arun Singh's wife, Nina, who was once her close chum, she would begin her day at six and end it at nine, meeting people and discussing local problems like health care, water and schooling. After the 1984 elections, she withdrew herself from Amethi for two long

Most people feel Sonia is very apolitical and believe all talk about her joining politics is nonsense. But, there are many others who do not rule it out totally. Even while Sonia had refused to see Congress leaders after her husband's funeral, she came out to meet the delegation from Amethi, they say. The debate may continue for some time, but one thing is sure. The family, which once hated politics, willy nilly seemed to be getting involved in politics when tragedy strikes. This was evident from the manner that Rajiv was campaigning. He had a direct, personalised approach and he even took Rahul and Priyanka separately to some of the public meetings.

Even Sonia seemed to be very much at

The same of the same of the same of

ease while campaigning in Amethi this time. Though she had come to be described as very wooden and awkward after her husband became Prime Minister, in Amethi this time she seemed very relaxed and her smile seemed to emanate from the heart. Sonia, her friends say, always preferred rural India. The bureaucrats who worked with Rajiv love to narrate how Sonia once called the Prime Minister's doctor to come and see a girl who seemed to have an eye infection in a village in Orissa. On leaving the hut, they asked the name of the little girl. As it turned out, she too was called Sonia.

During the campaign for this election, Sonia made bold to address her first public meeting in Rae Bareilly. And she did it all alone, Rajiv Gandhi was not with her. She appealed to the people in fluent, even if slightly accented Hindi, to vote for the Congress(I).

Whether her new-found interest in politics was just an extension of her dedication for her husband or deeper we shall know shortly.

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hinds Lilms

• Do Matwale: Opera (Lenin

Sarani; 281849)—4 shows. Sunjay Dutt, Sonam, Chunkey Panday, Shiipa Shirodkar and Kader Khan comprise the main cast of this film, directed by Ajay Kashyap. The music is by Laxmi-kant Pyarelal.

 Jeemma Chumma in London: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442)-12, 3, 6, 9.

Recordings of a musical prog-ramme on stage at Wembley, starring Amitabh Bachchan, Śridevi, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Anupam Kher, Neelam and others.

Avesha Julka in Kurbeen

• Karz Chukana Hai: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138)-4

A film by Vimal Kumar, starring Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Shakti Kapoor and Kader Khan. The music is by Rajesh Roshan.

Road; 241383), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440), Madhuban (Regent Park), Alochhaya (Be-

Mukherjee Road; 474567)-3 shows.

Directed by Biresh Chatterjee and with music by Swapan Chakraborty, the chief attractions of this film are Tapas Paul, Indrani Halder, Sreela Majumder, Subbendu



Kheyali Dastidar, Soumitra Chatterjee, Utpal Dutt and Master Rintu in Path O Prashad

• Kurbaan: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522), Jagat (Acharya Prafulia Chandra Road; 365108), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 484808),

Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; Mecania (Since Chatter) et Avenue, 410417), Malancha (Regent Park). Sunil Dutt, Sakman Khan, Kabir Bedi, Rohini Hattangady, Gulahan Grover and Ayesha Julka are the

directed by Deepak Balary. The music is by Anand Milind. • 100 Days: Elite (S.N. Banerjee

principal attractions in this film,

liaghata Main Road; 355059).

Jackie Shroff, Madhuri Dixit, Javed Jaffrey and Laxmikant Berde comprise the main cast of this film, directed by Partho Ghush. The

music is by Raam Laxman.

• Qurbani Rang Layegi: Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132)—4 shows.
A film by Raj Sippy, starring
Sunjay Dutt, Poonam Dhillon, Padmini Kolhapure and Shakti Kapoor. The music is by Laxmikant

Bengali Films

Pvarelal.

• Beder Meye Josna: Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

One of the biggest hits in recent times, this Bangladesh production stars Chiranjeet and Anju Glassh. Others co-starring are Sa Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Soma, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarnath and Bulbul. The film is directed by Matiyur Rehman Panu and the

misic is by Abu Taher.

Neelimaye Neel: Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282), Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558080), Purna (S.P. Chatteriee. Anamika Saha and Master Rintu.

• Path O Prashad: Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 753462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi

Road; 352740)—3 shows. A Tarun Majumdar film, starring Utpal Dutt, Sandhya Roy, Soumitra Chatterjee, Amup Kumar, Ayan Banerjee, Kheyali Dastidar, Bibhas Chakraborty, Aloka Ganguly, Ruma Guhathakurta, Kalyani Mondal, Dilip Roy, Arun Banerjee, Satya Bandopadhyay and Master Rintu. The music is by V. Balsara.

· Anthony Kabiyai: Kashi Bisanath Mancha (Canal West Road; 355596)-Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat.

& Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.
Directed by Januari Mulcherjee,
the main cast comprises Arindam Ganguly, Indrani Halder, Kali Banerjee, Ketaki Dutta and Dulál

 Glantak Bidaye: Star (79/3/4 Bidhan Sarani; 339369)—Thurn. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

The play stars Machabi Mulcher-jee, Tarun Kumar, Scoola Majam-

der, Rabi Ghose and Soumitra Chatteriee, who has also directed the play and composed its music.

 Ghatak Late: Sujata Sadan (Hazra Road) -- Thurs & Sat. at 6 30 pm Sun at 3 pm & 6 30 pm George Baker Sipia Mitra Ka

Ivan Chatterjee and Arpita Chakra borty are the chief attractions of this paly, directed by Subimol Roy Jiban Sangini: Rungmahal (76 1B Bidhan Sarani 337186) Thurs & Sat at 6 30 pm, Sun at 3 pm & 6 30 pm

Directed by Jnanesh Mukherjee who also stars along with Lily Chakraborty, Arun Banerjee, Utpal Roy, Kaushik Banerjee, San ghamitra Banerjee and Chinnioy Řογ

• Kı Bibhrat: Rangana (153/2A) Acharya Pratulla Chandra Poad. 556846) Inurs at 6 30 pm Sat & Sun at 3 pm & 6 30 pm

A comedy, stairing Anup Kumar, Rajeshwaii Rov Choudhury, Abhisek Chatterjee, Ajit Banerjee Gita Dey, Nimu Bhowmick, Dhiman Chakraborty, Aloka Ganguly and Ratna Ghosal Direction Ganesh Mukherjee

• Nati Binodini: Byon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street 338413)- Thurs at 6:30 pm, 5at & Sun at 3 pm & 6 30 pm

Directed by Bina Dasgupta who also stars in the title role, the cast includes Ashim Kumar. Anitesh Bhattacharya, Unal Sengupta, Kaberi Biswas and others

• Prem Parinati: Pratap Man cha (Acharya Pratulla Chandra Road opp Rajabazar train de pot) -Thurs & Sat at 6.30 pm Sun at 3 pm & 6 30 pm

Directed by Tarun Kumar the ast includes K. Debraj. Manju-Bhattacharya Ashini Mukherjee

Meena Dey Partha Banerjee and Rita Koyral

• Saheb: Circinena (6 Raja Raj Kissen Street 557213) Thurs at 630 pm; Sat & Sun at 3 pm & 6 30 pm

Tapas Paul stars in the title role Also co starting are Subhendu Chatterjee, Ananiika Saha, Surup Mitra Bani Kumar Manju Chakra borts, Bulbul Choudhury Chan dram Halder and Sovanial Mukher jee, who also directs

Special Events

9 June: 6.30 pm

Mahila Samity's annual cultural festival features Sanskriti '91-a programme of music, dance and drama

At Aban Mahal (CLI Dhakuria bridge approach)

9-15 June: 3 pm 8 pm An exhibition of paintings by the

students of Gour Mallar in the New Gillery

9 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm Jayanta Khan will hold his paint ings exhibition in the West Gallery till June 16

10 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm A week-long exhibition of paint ings by the students of Chitrarpita in the South Gallery

11 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm The 26th annual exhibition by the members of the Academy's Studio (junior group) will be held in the Central Gallery till June 17 14 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Nilatpal Sinha in the North Gallery

 A week-long exhibition of sculptures by Ranajit Kumar Routh in

the New South Gallery
At Academy of Fine Arts
(Cathedral Road, 284302)

Planes

NOTE; All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230 Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo. Arr (5) Al-306 at 1915, Dep (5) Al-306 at 2020 Tokyo-Bangkok-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6) Al-309 at 1910 Dep (6) Al-309 at 2025 London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (7)

Al-132/1328 at 1230 Moscow-Sharlah-Calcutta: Arr (4) SU-537 at 1525

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow. Dep (4) SU-538 at 1725 Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-

Calcutta-Hanol: Arr (2) SU-541 at 0640, Dep (2) SU-541 at 0750 Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr (2) SU-542 at 1615, Dep (2) SU-542 at

Amman-Calcutta: Arr (4) RJ-184 at 0645

Calcutta-Amman Dep (5) RJ-185_at 0530

+ Bucharest-Abu Dhabi-Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr (1) RO-063 at 1045, Dep (1) RO-063 at 1200

+ Bangkok-Calcutta-Abu Dhabi-Bucharest: Arr (1) RO-064 at 1945; Dep (1) RO-064 at 2100 Calcutta-Singapore: Dep (2) SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4) SQ-120 at 1310

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr (2) SQ-116 at 1025 and Arr (4) SQ-420 at

C-731 at 0900, Dep (1, 3, 6) TG-314 at 1355

3angkok-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 7) C-732 at 1500, Arr (1, 3, 6) TG-

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep (2 4

6 7) IC-747 at 1600, Dep (1 5) RA-214 at 1455

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr (2 4. 6, 7) IC-748 at 1930 Arr (1 5) RA-213 at 1355

Calcutta-Dhaka. Dep (1, 3, 5, 6) C-723 at 1340, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) BG-092 at 1305, Dep (7) BG-096 at 1820, Dep (5, 6) BG-096 at 1835, Dep (1, 2, 3, 4) BG-098 at

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr (1, 3, 5, 6) 16-724 at 1600, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) BG-091 at 1225, Arr (7) BG-095 at 1710, Arr (5, 6) BG-095 at 1855, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4) BG-097 at 1940

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep (2, 5) BG-698 at 0905

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5) BG-697 at 0825

Calcutta-Paro: Dep (2) KB-106 at 0900, Arr (2) KB 105 at 0800

Domestic

Calcutta-Bombay Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr (1) Al-1328 at 1230

Indian Airlines

Air-India 1

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep (daily) IC 263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750 Arr (daily) IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (daily) IC-176 at 0900 and IC-273 at 2000 Arr (daily) IC-274 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0800

Calcutta-Madras: Dep (1, 2 3, 4, 5, 7) IC-765 at 1700, Dep (6) IC-265 at 1700, Arr (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7) IC-766 at 2210 Arr (6) IC-266

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep (1, 2, 4,

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

IC-771 at 0620 Arr (1 2 4 6 7) IC-771 at 0620 b. 7) IC-772 at 1200 Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-

Lucknow-Delhi Dep (daily) IC-410 at 0615 Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-

Calcutta. Arr (daily) IC-409 at 1545

Calcutta-Guwahati Dep (daily) IC-229 at 1340 Dep (1 3 5 6) IC-729 at 0730, Arr (daily) IC-230

Ex-Servicemen's Coach Service (Airlines House to Calcutta Airport): Departures from Airlines House at 4 30 am, 530 am, 715 am, 930 am 11 30 am 2 15 pm 3 15 pm and 5.45 pm. Departures from Calcutta Airport depends upon the arrival of the flights

at 1630 Arr (1 3, 5, 6) IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep (daily) IC-741 at 0835 and IC-743 at 1330, Arr (daily) IC-742 at 1055 and IC 744 at 1550

Calcutta-Port Blair. Dep (2, 4 6) IC-285 at 0530, Arr (2, 4, 6) IC-286 at 1000

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicobar: Dep (1) IC-287 at 0530 Arr (1) IC-288 at 1220

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep (2, 4) IC-213 at 1130, Dep (3, 5, 7) IC-213 at 0600, Arr (2, 4) IC-213 at 1525, Arr (3, 5, 7) IC-213 at 0955 Celcutta-Bagdogra: Dep (1) IC-221 at 1300, Dep (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-221 at 1100 Arr (1) IC-222 at 1520, Arr (2 3 4 5, 6, 7) IC-222 at 1320

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep (2, 3, 4 5 6 7) IC-201 at 1400, Arr (2 3, 4 5, 6, 7) IC-202 at 1730 Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep

(daily) IC-255 at 0610, Arr (daily) IC-256 at 1050

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep (1 3, 5 7) IC-257 at 1130, Arr (1 3, 5, 7) IC-257 at 1510

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep (3 5 6) IC 269 at 1650 Arr (3 5 6) IC-270 at

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep (1 2, 4, 7) IC-269 at 1650 Arr (1, 2 4, 7) IC-270 at 1910

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep (1 2 4,7) IC-277 at 1720, Arr (1, 2 4 7) IC-278 at 2210

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6) IC-542 at 1000

Madras-Vishakapatnam-Calcutta: Arr (1, 2, 4 6) IC-541 at 0915

Vavudoot W

Calcutta-Agartais-Kailashahar: Dep (2, 4) PF-729 at 0710 Arr (2, 4) PF-730 at 1120 Calcutta-Shillong-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3 5, 6) PF-701 at 0710, Dep (7) PF-701 at 1210

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta. + No traffic rights on Calcutta-Bangkok-Calcutta and Calcutta-Abu Dhabi-Calcutta

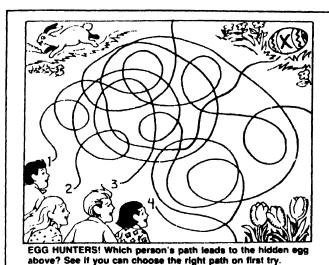
Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-717 at 0630, Dep. (2, 4, 6). PF-717A at 1330; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-718 at 0825, Arr. (2, 4, 6): PF-718A at 1525.

Calcutta-Agartala-Alzawi: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-705 at 0855; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-706 at 1300.
Calcutta-Agartala-Alzawi-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-705A

at 1250; Arr (1, 3, 5): PF-706A & 1635. Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1 3, 5): PF-707 at 0855; Arr. (1, 3, 5) PF-708 at 1150.

Departure		EASTERN RAILWAY	Arrival		Departure		SOUTH-EASTERN	Arrival	
Jp	Time	<u>Howrah</u>	Time	Dn			RAILWAY		
2311 3005	19-00 19-20	Delhi-Kaika Mail Amritear Mail	8-30 8-05	2312 3006	Up	Time	<u>Howrah</u>	Time	Dn
3003 2381	20-00	Bombey Mell via Allahabad	13-15	3004	6003	20-40	Medres Mail	7-00	600
2361	9 -15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombay Mall via Nagpur	8-00	800
		prese via Gaya-Varanasi			2860	12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15-05	288
		Dep—Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	803
2202	0.45	Arr—Wed. Fri. & Sun.	40.00	0004	8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	802
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Deithi) Ex- press via Patna Dep-Mon. Wed. Fri. & Sun.	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex- press	11-50	284
2301	16-00	Arr—Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat. Reidhani Express 5 days a	11-30	2302	2611	22-35	Bangalore Express Dep—Tues Arr—Sun.	13-45	261
		week	11-00	LUUE	8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	40.00	004
		Dep-Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. &			8011	6-10	lepat Express	10-20 22-30	801
		Sun.			8005	21-00	Sembelpur Express	7-30	801 800
		Arr—Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat. &			8015				
		Sun.			8007	21-40	Ranchi Hatla Express	6-05	801
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkiy	11-10	2374	8409	22-00 19-35	Puri Express Via Cuttack Jaganneth (Puri) Express Via Narai	5-30 7-45	800 841
		Dep—Tues. Fri. & Sat. Arr—Tues. Wed. & Sat.			2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex- press	21-20	282
547	13-15	Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	8079	23-20	Tirupeti Express	4-15	806
		press DepMon. & Thurs.			8045	11-10	East Coast (Hyderabed) Ex- press	14-55	804
009	20-05	Arr—Thurs. & Mon. Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-20	3010	8017	16-45	Purulle Express DepExcept Saturday	11-20	801
007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Arr—Except Sunday Guwahati - Howrah - Triven- drum Central Express	22-15	
049	13-05	Amritsar Express	15-45	3050	ł		Monday only		
011	20-45	Delhi Express via Main Line	6-10	3012	i	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah	13-45	260
039	20-55	Delhi Janata Express via Main Line	5-30	3040		14-10	- Guwahati Express Saturday only	13-70	200
019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	i —	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	264
021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	1		Guwahati Weekly Express		
557	6-00	Kenchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660	1		Thursday only		
317	6 -10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	_
029	17-15	Coeffield Express	10-30	3030			Terminus Weekly Express		
035	18-20	Assneol Express	8-45	3036	i		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032	l		Saturday only		
025	23-00	North Bihar Express DepWednesday	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Superfast Express (via	13-45	265
071	22-05	Arr-Friday Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express	6-00	3072			Visakhapatnam & Madras) DepFri. & Sun		
		Dep—Tues. Thurs. & Sat.			1		Arr-Tues. & Fri.		
		Arr-Mon. Thurs. & Sat.			2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	
015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	1		Weekly Express (via Howrah		
159	15-25	Chambal (Gwallor) Tri-	7-30	2160	1		& Cuttack)		
		weekly Superfact Express			1		Wednesday only		
		Dep-Thurs. Sat. & Sun.			_	14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	267
171	15-25	Arr—Tues. Wed. & Thurs. Shipra (Indore) Express	7-30	1172			Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)		
		Dep-Tues. & Wed. Arr-Sat. & Sun.					Monday only		
327	15-25	Shektipunj (Chopen) Ex- press	7-30	3328	2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter- minus Weekly Express (via	22-15	
		Dep & ArrMon. & Fri.			1		Howrah) Thursday only		
049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminue- Patna Weekly Express (via	13-45	260
		<u>Sealdah</u>					Howrah) Wednesday only		
143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	8-45	3144					
153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154					
151	11-20	Jammu-Ťawi Express	16-30	3152	ENQUI	nies: Fo	round the clock information of	Eastern (reliw
133	20-45	Mughel Seral Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	all oth	er inform	ial 203545-54 for in-coming train nation. For information about	recervation	000 0
1031 1 85	15120 A	Bhagirathi (Laigola) Express	10-25	3104		. and 50	uth Eastern Railways trains, dia weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm (1 ZU35UU	(mom
1 編集 / 11	312-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly	4-30	5186	i en to	- DIE ON	www.ceys and y am to 2 pm (فكاللام الد	ws at

JUNIOR WHIRL D Hal Kaufman



• FAR FLUNG! Names of four countries found on different continents are scrambled here ECOMIX, CHAIN, GUMBILE, RENTAGAIN What countries?

Mexico china Bulgium and Argentina respectively

1BC	6LM
2CD	$^{7}M - N$
³GH	8ST
4 JK	9TU
5KL	$^{10}V_{-}_{-}W$

ALPHABETIC END RUNS

Ten examples are given above of words in the English language that begin with one letter of the alphabetic and end with the next in alphabetic order. No. 1, for example, begins with B and ends with C No 2 begins with C and ends with D Each of these examples has four letters. Let's see how many you can iden-

rty.
PS. Some have more than one answer

Afterwards, see if you can think up some similar, longer words

Possibilities 1 Bloc 2. Card 3 Gash 4 Jack 5. Keel, 6 Loom 7 Moon 8 Suit 9 Tutu 10 Vie. TOSS UP! Let's see if you are as clever at juggling numbers as the clown below. You're asked to arrange the three numbers the clown has at hand to form a three-digit number divisible by seven.

P.S.: There's a gimmick to it. See if you can figure it out.

No fair peeking!



Use number as as an indendediated the second



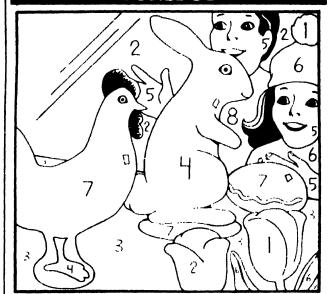




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Oitferences 1 Trash can is missing 2 Letter is missing 3 Curters are missing 4 Cutte are missing 6 Sign is missing

FUNSPOT



BITE SIGHS! How much is that chocolate bunny in the window? Add colors by number: 1—Red. 2—Lt. purple 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

CALIPERS

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points.



QUIZ @ Nell O'Brien

Deepak Verma reports on the year s first open quiz The Dalhousie Institute Invitation Quiz for the Errol Cowper Trophy is always of a high standard and this year was no exception. It is also a quiz known for its upset results in the prelims and again this year was no exception.

In the opening qualifying round, both seeded teams Vae Victis and Tetrads bit the dust. The former never really got going while the lat ter surged too late and were a trifle unlucky Upset quali fiers were Nutcrackers—an all-ladies team-the first of its kind to qualify for an open guiz final and YMCA (Col lege Branch) who got home on a last question bonus (Describe the Goan dish mutton Xacuti Ans Mutton cooked in coconut gravy)

The second preliminary saw Scherzo coast in so comfortably that they became immediate hot favourites for winning the till the other seeded team Octette struck out as Sport sworld slipped into second place in the final

The second day saw results true to form First DI B and Untouchables qualified comparatively untroubled then DI 'A and Syzygy made up the final eight without too much sweat

The final looked a run



11th Question: Why did the Infamous duo of Rob Pilatus and Fab Morvan name themselves as 'Milli Vanilii'? (Devojyoti Bhattacharjee, J. Hind Itbalta Road, Meherpur, Silchar 788015)

Ans: 'Milli' in Arabic means good luck.

'Vanilli' was later joined to rhyme with 'milli'. Incidentally, they are also fans of Scritti Politi.

away battle between the two DI teams with DI 'A having a really field day Syzygy woke up late to challenge DI B but just failed—the two home teams making a one-two

A totally new look DI A (Stanley David Shivaji Roy Vikas Khandelwal and Sunil Gupta) surprised even their staunchest supporters

The guiz conducted by Neil O Brien provided a wide variety of interesting questions for example How did the Saudi government re jecting the idea of female soldiers coming to their defence designate US women soldiers in the Gulf War? (As males with female features) and In the American Wild West what was a California collar? (A noose for hanging a person From its frequent use in California in vigilante days)

Some of the answers had a touch of the comic What is

a cow pat? produced the answer 'A method of patting a cow so that it moves along In fact, it is a cow dung cake

The high-quality visuals ranged from the coat of the arms of the East India Cornpany to model Rachel Reuben vis The Church at Vellankani and footballer David Platt

The evergreen maestro, Neil O Brien, conducted proceedings with his usual flair and refreshingly fresh attitude to knowledge

DI 'A was awarded the AQUO Trophy for 1990, having made a clean sweep of all four open quizes last vear

Rahmat Alı, Calcutta 14, writes

"Where do the 'Laddu token counters of Andhra Bank operate?

'Right inside the Tirupathi (Lord Venkateshwara) Tem-

ple complex in south Andhra Pradesh As the sale of *lad*dus is a large revenue earner, the Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthan has allowed the Andhra Bank to operate such counters Two officers and 25 others work in shifts 24 hours a day and 364 days in a year, selling laddu tokens and tallying the cash collections The bankmen man their laddu counters before 'Suprabhatam at 2 30 am and wind up after 'ekanta seva, which could end a 1 am the following day In con ventional banking terms, this seems to be a strange work

Dr Suptendra Nath Sarbadhıkarı Calcutta 45 re ports

"BITM and Solar Energy Society of India jointly organised an international quiz on solar energy at BITM to celebrate the International Sun-day I was invited to conduct the quiz There was a tie for the third spot between Calcutta Boys School and Hartley s High School which went into sudden death where the latter broke through The runners up were La Martiniere for Boys However the clear winners were Patha Bhavan repre sented by Suranjan Chakraborty, Somnath Basu and Ronkoyel Tarafdar

QUESTIONS

1) The founding father of Malaysia and its first Prime Minister, fondly called 'Bapa', died on December 7, 1990 What was his name? (Md Shahjahan Siddiqui, Calcutta 17) 2) What does RIP on a grave stand for? (Rakesh Verma, Calcutta 56) 3) The United Nations have designated 1992 as what year? (Bishwamoy Sengupta, Chaibasa) 4) Which West Indies fast bowler played Ranji Trophy cricket? (Omar Ghazali, Calcutta 7) 5) "I was a famous in-

dologist I never visited India I deciphered the relationship between Sanskrit and European languages I thus got the origin of my own name in Sanskrit's Moksha Moola (Root of Freedom) " Who am I? (Shailesh Kumar Singh, Godda)

6) Which tennis player said about another, "Everytime I see her, her shoulders are still about three inches wider! I was growing too at her age, but enough's enough"? (Muraii Panicker, Calcutta 29)

7) Which British royal was playing squash with his private secretary when his first child was born? (Anjanava Datta, Calcutta 31)
8) Which Nobel Prize winner always wears a badge
depicting the Black
Madonna, a portrait of the
Virgin Mary and the Christ
child? (Othello Mazoomdaar, Boral 5)
9) 'Long Jump' was known
by what altogether different name in the 1900
Olympics and for some
time later? (Sujit Mulcherjee, Bhubaneswar 7)
10) Tulips were cultivated
first in Turkey. But what
does the word mean?
(Aquil Kamal, Burdwan 4)

ANSWERS

. nawon bebnecks begins

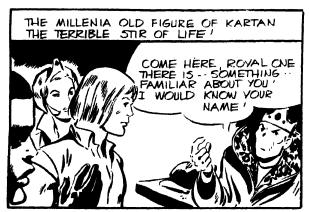
8) Lech Waless, 10) The name derives from the Turkish tul(i)band (turture) for the plant's turban-

Prince Philip when
 Prince Charles was born.
 Times changed—Prince
 Charles was present when
 both his babies were born.

1) Tunku, Abdul Rahman. 2) Requescat in peace, Latin for May he (or ane) 3) Space Year. 4) Roy Gilchnst for Hydersbad 5) Max Mueller 5) Max Mueller 6) Pam Shriwer about Gabriela Saballyi.

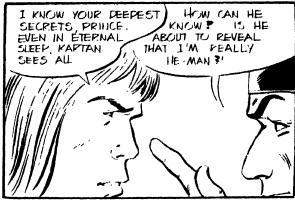
COMICS















ARCHIE



















MOOSE MILLER By Bob Weber



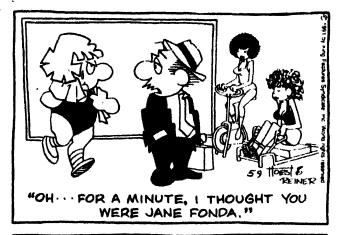






THE LOCKHORNS









"WE'RE HAVING LOBSTER PITTSBURGH. IT'S LORETTA'S VERSION OF LOBSTER NEWBURG."

GARFIELD By Jim Davis





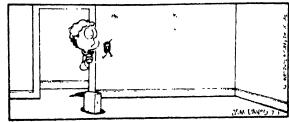




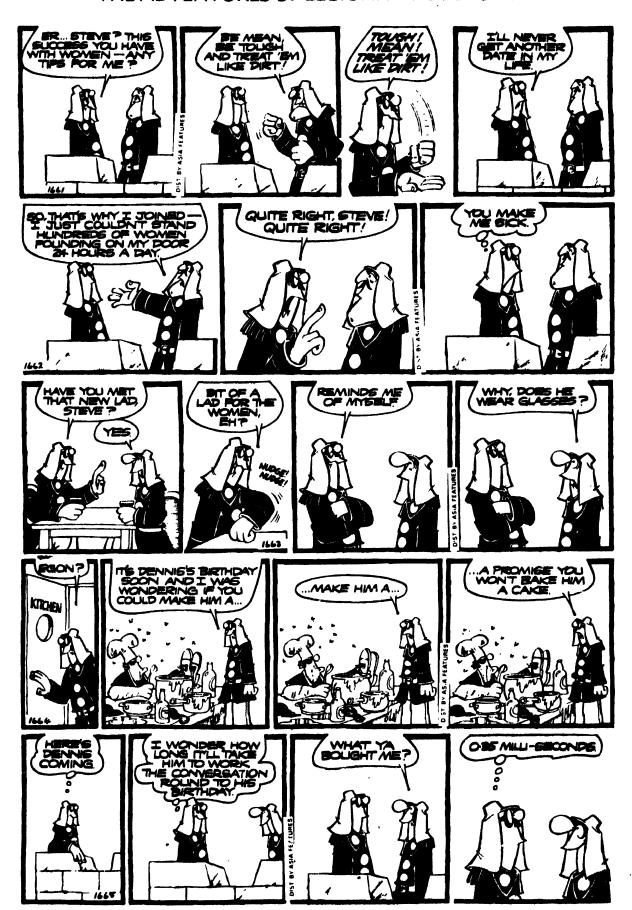








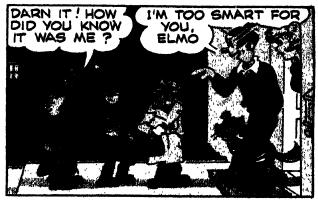
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



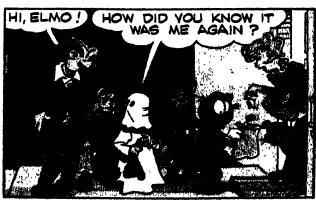




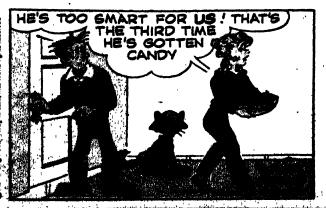














They were tragic circumstances in which Sonia Gandhi was made the offer, and P.V. Narasimha Rao finally became the Congress(I) party president. But in politics, where the left hand ought not to know what the right hand is doing, his opening remark that they should "get on with the job together" sounded like a good signal. Photograph by ASHOK DAS

and the first file of the control of





And the quality of materials and workmanship make KUDLON India's largest selling mattress.

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* Support

Elegance

Kurl-on

india's largest selling mattrees.

Carnetally Consumer Principle Ltd.,

Startingting Division: 18 Floor, North Block, Minimum Coulds, Minimum Research, Bangalore - 580 042; Ph. 57229Gelicies & St. Interchines Stand Stand Stand Stand Stand Stand Tools (PP), Mangalore: 23209; Cochin: 386744;
Gelicies & St. Interchines St. 710; Combados: 20181; College Stand

ORIENTAL

PROFILE



OUR CORPORATE GROWTH

Growing customer confidence.

For most companies, growth is usually expressed in terms of turnover. Looking at our balance sheet, the sales figures show an impressive growth rate of 29.6%. The highest ever.

And yet, our strength lies in our satisfied policy-holders, whose claims get top priority. We settled over 3.5 laich claims last year, this idea, debility amounting to

policy-holders from all walks of life, like individual householders, businessmen, self-employed, doctors, engineers, computer professionals, small traders and shopkeepers, farmers, cattle and poultry owners and a host of others. Their number keeps growing year after year.

Dear customer. For you we have special cells for Grievance Redecisal, Customer Advice and Risk Management. And a work force of 18,000 to strend to your varied needs as nearly a molecular.

Yes, our corporate growth has been impressive. More so, as an expression of your ever-growing confidence in us.



ORIENTAL INSURANCE CAPANY EMITED

A transfer of the fact that

POST MORTEM

The Wedge of Hatred

Brick by Brick' (April 7) was out of place considering the banality and shallowness of the whole exercise Moreso, when it comes from a person who, I presume, belongs to the herd called the intelligentsia

One is inclined to doubt the relevance of this essay in the Colour Magazine in a a situation where we can take pride in our citizenship and not in short-term protection-reservations-special-status-of-states policies for the vote banks, thus driving the wedge of hatred deeper

It would be a wonderful day for this world when Neeladri Bhattacharya could have a theological essay like this published in any country between the Nile and the Khyber May I request you not to publish

Hoon was also quite de serving, but he has not been honoured so just be cause he acts in commer cial films and the jury al ways ignored him for that reason If commercial cinema had been recognised ear lier, then Amitabh would have won dozens of awards for Zanjeer Sholav Amar Akbar Anthony Aakhree Raasta, Main Azad Hoon and others Javed Nishat. Calcutta ■ The towering idol is in fact, magnetism personi fied But I don't agree that the national award has made Amitabh a megaar tiste. He has always car ried the films on his shoul ders Pradeep Jain, Calcutta^{*}

Bachchan's talent ('The

Artiste Within May 5)

There is not an iota of

doubt that his performance

in the artistically crafted

Agneepath was electrify

ing His work in Main Azad

Calcutta

Amitabh is often accused of being a one-man industry, but his genius is ignored. His recent attempts to shed his stereotyped image shows his commitment to good cinema and acceptance of reality.

Nilesh Bhattacharya, Agarpara

If you can publish a cover story on Om Prakash Chautala and Chandra Swami, why couldn't you do one on Amitabh Bachchan? His winning the national award was a good opportunity. That really upset

Raj Kumar Sahu, Ghatal (W B)

■ The honour to Amitabh was long overdue. This great actor-star has lifted singlehandedly so many mediocre films to become big box-office hits through his towering performances. Mid Sayced,



The BJP: Loud and clear

country which has been partitioned on the same issue four decades ago. There is no denying the fact that India, more than any other contry, is cursed with this minority problem. Efforts should be made to ind a permanent solution by dissolving these minority-majority, backward-present solutions and create

such motivated essays in the Colour Magazine, we have enough of it all around M.S. Chakraborty,

Recognising Talent

Calcutta

At last the National Awards jury has recognised

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

16 JUNE 1991



The security accorded to VIPs has come in for a sharp look since the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi Who are these special protectors? Where do they come from? And what is their brief? A report

In a previous issue, we focused on the glamour in politics today. We follow up with a feature on the glitter on the fringes of politics.

A photofeature on the beauty and utility of the shell

SECTIONS

11 Heritage 12 Inner Eye

20 7 Days

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30 images

Cover Algke Mitra

ACM STERNANTE OF THE OWNER OWNER



nce again our national leaders have become security conscious. After losing Raity Gandhi to a human bomb at Sriperumbudur in the midst of an election, all those who once scoffed at his excessive security consciousness and held it responsible for his failure in understanding India and its politics are not leaving

anything to chance Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, who treated his security with disdain, now takes it with utmost senousness. All visitors at his residence are closely scrutinised at the gate and then sent inside an official car, their own vehicles parked at the gate Chandra Shekhar's two sons have been provided cover by the National Security Guards as also his brother in Ballia When a car followed his son's vehicle for an unusual length of time, the matter was quickly brought to the notice of the Delhi Police who began investigations to establish the identity of the car-owner The Prime Minister has even had to shelve his plan for campaigning on a bicycle in Ballia where a particularly difficult election awaited him

If Chandra Shekhar is taking his security senously, so too are other leaders like Lal Krishna Advani who initially refused additional security in the wake of Rajiv's assassination. Even V.P. Singh, who disregarded all security advice and ventured out in an open jeer to Amritsar soon after being elected Prime Minister in 1989, is now taking all precautions. Rajiv's assassination has suddenly jolted everybody.

In the wake of Rajiv
Gandhi's assassination,
the focus has shifted to
the security accorded to
our VIPs. Seema Paul
gives it a sharp look

The security blue-book was strictly adhered to at their election meetings after Rajiv was assassinated. Whereas the entire National Front presidium would appear on the stage at public meetings earlier, only two persons including the local candidate were allowed at Singh's election railies. The security zone was rigorously implemented around the stage and the public would sit at a safe' distance.

Even the chief election commissioner, T N Seshan, has acquired the cover of the National Security Guards. They were also deputed to take care of a host of other political leaders on the ever-growing list of threatened individuals of the Intelligence Bureau.

Security is no matter for criticism. All this is as it should always have been. Mrs. Indira. Gandhi's assassination in October 1984 should have awakened the nation to the fact that our leaders' lives were under threat. But in some quarters, the feeling always persisted that Mrs. Gandhi had somehow paid the price for her own deeds. And when Rajiv Gandhi showed.



extreme sensitivity to his own and his family's security, it was considered unbecoming of an Indian politician. Many felt the man revelled in his excessive security.

Once out of power in 1989, political analysts as also some of his own partymen held his excessive security partly responsible for his failures. Rajiv, they would say, had cocooned himself and was out of touch with the masses. If his first reaction to his security had been somewhat excessive. Rajiv responded to the criticism by going to another extreme in this election. He threw security advice to the winds and went around establishing a direct contact with the masses. He would ask people to come close to the dais and allow them to shake hands with him, pull his kurta, tug his arm, he would throw back garlands at them and would even eat what they offered. When Congressmen like K.K. Tewari cautioned him, he would say their advice had for long held him back from the people, but he could not continue to do so.

If Rajiv was erring in doing so, it does not mean that the agencies responsible for his security are not to blame. Their responsibility for Rajiv's assassination is no less. Senior NSG officials in Delhi admit that the politician's casual attitude towards his own security is no excuse for laxity on their part. In Sriperumbudur, where Rajiv was blown apart by a woman who turned herself into a bomb by tying a belt packed with explosives and pellets, crucial lapses had been committed by the local police.

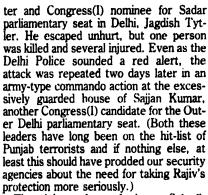
For one, there were neither metal detectors at the entry point to the public grounds for people to pass through nor any sniffer dogs to check for explosives. There was no protective ring of policemen around the meeting ground and, most important, there was no barricading behind the dais from where Rajiv was to address the gathering. The bomb-woman was able to reach the path Rajiv was to take to the dais without having to pass metal detectors or close frisking, any of which would have indicated that she was a security threat. Probably the only security precaution taken was that a ring of policemen surrounded him, which is evident from the large number of policemen who have died at the spot.

Rajiv Gandhi's was the third major political assassination in the country after Mahatma Gandhi and Indira Gandhi. It should now awaken the nation to the fact that assassinations, which Gandhiji had once described as a "Western institution", have become a harsh truth of our political lite. Apart from the three Gandhis, there have been several other attempted as well successful assassinations. A mysterious bomb planted on the stage killed L.N. Mishra, and Longowal was shot dead

while addressing a religious congregation and General A.S. Vaidya was shot near Pune. An attempt was also made on the life of supercop Julio Francis Ribeiro at the Punjab Armed Police compound, of all places, as also that of the former Punjab chief minister, Darbara Singh.

Four days before Rajiv was assassinated, bullets were fired at an election meeting of the former civil aviation minis-

A senior Delhi Police efficient felt too much stress had so far been laid on the effice protection groups like the SPG and the NSG and it was now time to focus on the VIP security wings of the police throughout the country. Both at Raighat and at Sriperumbudur, local police had failed in different ways



The minister of state for home, Subodh Kant Sahay, had a close shave in Ludhiana district of Punjab when a powerful bomb exploded near his car on June 7. Even at the time of going to press, the BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee had a narrow escape in Nawadah in Bihar.

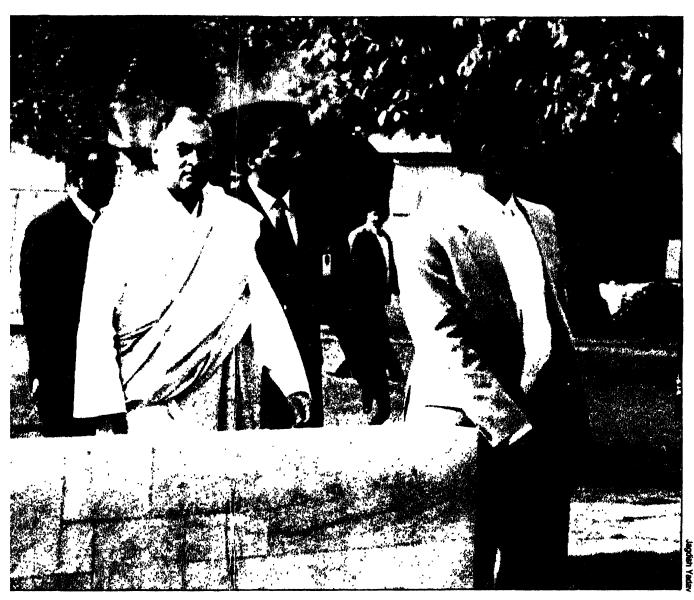
In such a high-risk political environment, it is time the nation and its leaders re-examined the security setup meant for guarding their lives. A democracy cannot afford constant threats in the form of assassination of its leaders. To begin with, let us take a close look at the existent security setup for the Prime Minister. At home he is probably the most secure man in the world. A vast array of metal detec-





tors and security agencies take care of his life by screening all those who meet him. When he steps out, three rings of securitymen surround him. The first one is that of the elite Special Protection Group (SPG), the second is provided by the commandos of the National Security Guards (NSG) and the third by the local police.

The SPG and NSG were both created in the wake of Mrs Gandhi's assassination and one has often been confused with the other. The first is actually a tiny, specialised force meant exclusively for guarding the person of the Prime Minister by striking down anyone who dares to point any weapon or attempt any attack on him. If there is no chance for doing so, they are meant to shield the Prime Minister and take on the attack themselves. In short, they are the 'bullet-catchers' for the



Prime Minister. The Act of Parliament, which created the SPG for the then Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, ordained that this force was not to be used for any other public figure or VIP in the country, not even the President.

While the SPG men are unarmed and always in plainclothes, the NSG personnel can be identified by their black dungarees which have led to the coining of the words Black Cats for them. The Black Cats are sharp-shooting commando force of young, under-35 men sent to the NSG on deputation from various para-military and police organisations, but mostly the Army. They carry AK-47 rifles and provide the second ring of security to the Prime Minister.

The third is the local police which takes care of all the arrangements along the route and at the venue of the Prime Minister's meetings as also those of other VIPs. These three rings are inextricably interwoven with the country's national security

and intelligence operations.

While, on paper, the Prime Minister's security system sounds quite foolproof. experience has shown that actually it is not so. Remember the Rajghat incident where an assassination attempt was made on Rajiv Gandhi in 1987 by Karamjit Singh who was hiding in the bushes the Samadhi? There were crucial security lapses on the part of the local police which was not able to detect the man who had been sitting there five days prior to the incident on October 2, and when the first shot was fired by the man from his local 12-bore rifle, better known as 'Katta', the security agencies mistook it for scooter backfire. And though the SPG men formed a tight ring around the Prime Minister they

did not spring into action and push the PM into his car and drive him off even after the second shot was fired and it became clear that it was an attack.

Though the Prime Minister later gave the SPG a clean chit, it once again failed later that year when a Sinhalese guard tried to hit Rajiv with the butt of his own gun while he was inspecting a guard-ofhonour in Sri Lanka. Rajiv had then saved his own life by ducking in a quick reflex action before the SPG men showed any reflexes. Those who have worked in the SPG in its initial days of founding say the standards have been falling as the training drills have not been upgraded with the passage of time. According to them, there has been some dilution in the standards as the force has grown from a core group of 50 in its initial days to about 1,000 now. That certainly calls for examination, even

though the NSG has not had any opportunity where it has been put to test in recent times

The SPG was not officially deputed to take care of Rajiv Gandhi once he lost his prime ministership, but V P Singh has said that all those SPG officials he had wished to take care of him had been quietly transferred to the Delhi Police to be made available to him. It seems they had not escorted Rajiv to Sriperumbudur but even if they had, there is no question of laying the blame at the doors of the SPG for this particular tragedy. As a senior Delhi Police official said, the responsibility will solely have to be attributed to the local police in Tamil Nadu.

The official feels that too much stress has so far been laid on the elite protection groups like the SPG and the NSG and it is high time to focus on the VIP security wings of the police throughout the country Both at Rajghat and at Sriperumbudur local police had failed in different ways. In

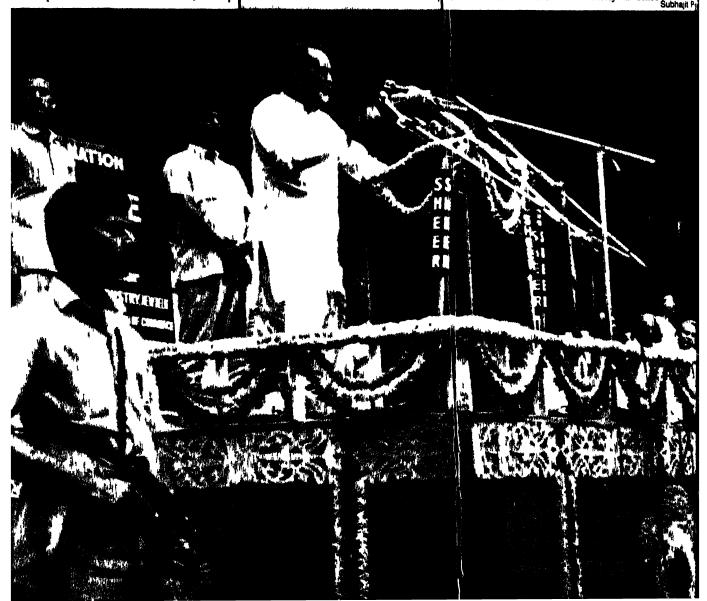
Not only has Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar made it a habit to travel everyday to Bhondsi, his farmhouse 25 kms outside Delhi, policemen claim Chandra Shekhar is willing to visit anybody who invites him. 'He is the most obliging guest and attends all functions, ranging from a mundane coremony to a funeral...'

the first case they failed to spot the potential assassin sitting on the canopy and in Madras they failed to abide by the bluebook norms

"The local police," says a deputy commissioner of police who was in-charge of Rajiv's security earlier, "guards the outer periphery and creates a system of checking forcible entry, ambush and planting of bombs. They should never become a weak line in the security system."

Gautam Kaul, who at present heads the Central Industrial Security Force, also lays stress on this Though the Delhi Police has become comparatively more security-conscious and more professional in the wake of Mrs Gandhi's assassination as threat has mounted from Punjab terror ists in the country by and large there is no VIP security system worth the name

Small cells which lack both the manpower and the special weapons, are entrusted with the VIP security in state Subhajit Pa



capitals and the less said about the other towns the better. According to Kaul, these cells are an apology for security.

While the Prime Minister's security travels with him wherever he goes, for other leaders and ministers security is the responsibility of the local police, like it was at Sriperumbudur. There is now a strong feeling amongst top police officials that the need of the hour is to make security a separate and specialised division of the police, with its own cadres and own structure of salaries and promotions.

The reasons, says a DIG in the NSG who was earlier in the police, is that in the present setup where police officials are interchangeable between the security wing and the local thana, there is a lot of disinterest in the first job. The thana offers too many attractions in the form of opportunity to show off their work and worth, and earnings through corrupt practices. A separate security division of police, he stresses, should provide better salaries and promotional avenues to offset its disadvantages. This would also go a long way in removing the disgruntled feeling of the security policemen who feel their counterparts in NSG and SPG get better salaries and facilities for a similar job.

In the present scenario, another disin-centive for the local policemen against joining the security division is the long duty hours, nearly all of which are spent standing. In Delhi, where their primary responsibility is to guard the route of the Prime Minister, they are a particularly unhappy lot as the PM is forced to travel frequently. But their agony has become more pronounced after Chandra Shekhar succeeded to the post. Not only has he made it a habit to travel everyday to Bhondsi, his farmhouse 25 kms outside Delhi, policemen claim Chandra Shekhar is willing to visit anybody who invites him. "He is the most obliging guest and attends all functions, ranging from a mundane ceremony to a funeral. If you are a somebody or nobody knowing somebody, you can invite Chandra Shekhar and make us go through one more drill of waiting long hours for him to pass that way.

There is also an urgent need to reexamine the involvement of the NSG for VIP security. This is not the original responsibility of the elite commando force whose charter sets out that it will execute specific commando operations like the Operation Black Thunder at the Golden Temple in 1987 or be called to deal with hijackers. Though only a small section of the elite group is at present engaged in VIP duty, the NSG does not feel very happy in this role. "It affects the training of the commandos who are constantly attending new courses to keep them fit. Besides,



There is also a strong feeling in the NSG rank and file that VIPs misuse them as a status symbol. Devi Lal, they say, had really no need to ask for them when he became deputy Prime Minister, but insisted and had his way

VIP security demands the commandos exercise restraint as you are often in a friendly crowd which could affect their agility and sharpness required by their basic job," an NSG official points out.

There is also a strong feeling in the NSG rank and file that VIPs misuse them as a status symbol. Devi Lal, they say, had really no need to ask for them when he became deputy Prime Minister, but insisted and had his way. This apart, the

NSG officials feel their men, the majority of whom come from the Army, are being unnecessarily exposed to civilian life. A former Congress(I) MP, Dharam Dass Shastri, who was denied a ticket this time, indulged in all kinds of abhorrent activities and would take his NSG officials with him to all kinds of places. Besides, VIPs show little concern for their comfort and have to remain by their side no matter how late into the night they remain on duty whereas in their own organisation they never work beyond six to eight hours a day.

In the final analysis, it is not just this and that wrong which needs to be rectified in our security system. What is required is a whole new security culture in which the political leaders, the newsmen, the security organisations and the public at large are agreed upon the need for minimum precaution and readily participate in this maintenance. One should hope that security measures being observed by political leaders in the wake of Rajiv's assassination would be observed in the times to come and not given up shortly.

and not given up shortly.

For, the potential assassin is always on the look-out for that one moment of weakness and a solitary lapse.

Istorically known as Rajahmahendrapuram, the town of Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh was once the seat of the Cholas and the Palavas. At present, a backyard for Telugu cinema damsels, it has achieved yet another distinction—the temple for Mrs Indira Gandhi which has been built there over an acre of land and named Indira Tapovanam.

It was inaugurated in 1988 by President R. Venkataraman after it was conceived by local godman B. Ramalinga Siddhanti who had some influence on former President Giani Zail Singh and the present AICC(I) chief, P.V. Narasimha Rao. The AIADMK supremo, Jayalalitha, is also one of his patrons. "Many people tried to sabotage my effort to build a memorial to Mrs Gandhi with whom I had been associated for over 12 years," says the Siddhanti.

Popularly known as Agama Samrat Rajguru, the Siddhanti was a man of the world; he

A HOLY ROW

smoked imported cigarettes and consumed only foreign liquor; he owns two cars and four wives. The fact came to light when his wives made this declaration in the electoral rolls for 1980. He has also

And now
Rajahmundry in
Andhra Pradesh
has an Indira
Temple

been a political high-flier since the days of former chief minister T. Anjaiah and his stars soared when he got Zail Singh to visit Rajahmundry and inaugurate a Telugu poets memorial in the town. The temple-memorial is built at the road junction leading to Kakinada and has overshadowed a Hanuman temple existing there for several years. The municipality of Rajahmundry gave the land free to the Siddhanti for the Tapovanam construction, thanks to the generosity of the Congress(I) chairman, A.C.Y. Reddy. The project finally cost nearly Rs 15 lakh which was collected by the Siddhanti from all his disciples who included vice-chancellors and film actors.

The Indira Tapovanam stands out as a unique feature on this coastal town known for its contribution to the Telugu film industry. Such idolation of personalities, big or small, seems to be in the blood of this emotionally driven society. About eight kms from Ra-

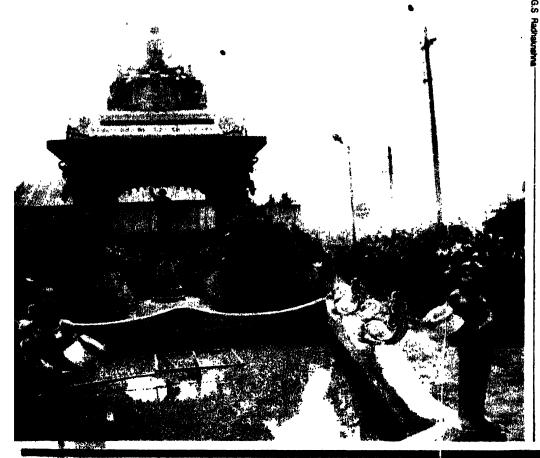
jahmundry is a village named Palamoor where N.T. Rama Rao fans throng to a particular temple where the face of Lord Krishna is a spitting image of NTR!

The inner walls of the dome of the temple carry the portraits of Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi and Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi. The outer faces of the dome are made of stucco works to represent all the predominant religions of the country—the temple, the church, the mosque and the sarva dharma of the Buddhists.

The statue of Mrs Gandhi. made out of bronze by well known sculptor of Madras M. Nagappa, is installed on a globe supported by four lions. The open air-temple without walls has floors in rich black granite. "Indira Gandhi was iust five feet, two inches tall, but the statue is six feet tall,' says the Siddhanti. A richly painted, sculpted archway forms the entrance to the temple. The emblem of Ashok Chakra supported by two swans adorns the archway. According to the Siddhanti, daily prayers were held in the temple for about three months and about 50 people were fed daily. Later, a paucity of funds aborted all programmes. There were plans to hold yoga classes there, too.

The temple attracted criticism locally from various groups known for their atheist affiliations. They argued against the temple in memory of a politician. "When we have not built a memorial for even a local social worker and philanthropist, Veereshalingam, the founder of Hitakarani Samajam, and also known as the Raja Rammohun Roy of the South, why should we allow such a memorial for a politician? But the Siddhanti says no one was compelled for contributions and the municipality had donated the land to him at the road junction on the outskirts of the town. "I have done what I felt I should do. It is now for the Congress(I) or the residents of Rajahmundry to maintain the temple or let it rot," says the Siddhanti.

G.S. Radhakrishna





HERITAGE O Rothin Mitro

DR KUMUD SANKAR RAY (1892-1950)



Renowned physician and educationist Dr Kumud Sankar Ray was born to Swarnamayee Debi and Parbati Sankar Ray (Chaudhuri) in Calcutta on September 7, 1892. His family hailed from Teota, Manikgunge (now in Bangladesh). After schooling he went to Edinburgh University where he did his BSc, MA and MBChB, and returned to India in 1915. He started his medical practice with monkey-gland transplantation or Voronoff's operation, but soon specialised in tuberculosis which then was a common and deadly disease as streptomycin was yet to be

discovered. In fact, Dr Ray was a pioneer in creating a sense of awareness of this disease; his handiwork, the Jadavpur TB Hospital, is named after him. He also donated a substantial amount of money and land for the S.B. Dey TB Sanatorium at Kurseong.

Dr Ray had set up the National Infirmary which subsequently became the National Medical College. Initially it was housed at his ancestral residence on European Asylum Lane. Later it moved to Wellington Street in Maniktolla area and fipally to its present site in Park Circus. He also

taught biology at R.G. Kar Medical College and was a Fellow of Calcutta University from 1944 to 1950.

Dr Ray was the founder-secretary of the Indian Medical Association and was twice elected its president. He also edited the Journal of the Indian Medical Association. A member of the Medical Council of India, he eventually became its president in 1950. Sometime before his death, he was elected FSMS. Founder of the Bengal TB Association, he was also the member of Indian Red Cross and St John's Ambulance.

As a social and political worker he provided free medical treatment to freedom fighters and was made the chief whip of C. R. Das' Swarajya Party. He was elected member of the Bengal Legislative Council from Faridpur (now in Bangladesh) and was a councillor of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation. He died on October 24, 1950.

The sketch above shows Dr Ray's residence at 130 Sarat Bose Road in south Calcutta. He shifted to this house from his ancestral residence on European Asylum Lane (now Abdul Halim Lane) in 1935.

INNER EYE D Beian Daruwalla

RIES

Merch 21 April 20 This week money and property will vie for attention with fun and fancy living socialis ing and glamour in romance take a chance on life and sweet delights Finance promises buying selling investing capital raising and you had better fuse it merry making Health posers will be there only the first



two days

Add property and expenses to last weeks main trend Once again try for a settle ment Strike a balance between romance and finance If you are planning for expansion a break through is predicted Concentra te upon details and costing Rela tives and family members may need your help regarding their health



May 21 June 20 Solicit help ask for favours be amiable and success will be yours. Get set to tra vel too Financial jugglery is foreseen and the family will have its say Love promises tinkling bells and sweet delicacies but electric vibrancy Bargains and anti-ques could tie in with property showroom or office Health will be ship shape Travel is foretold

ANCER

June 21 July 20 Last week s main trends now accelerate in roman the pest painter Bulbul Singh's line "Fruit trees that warm barren branches could apply to you Finance will involve sales publicity marketing perks and promotion it is time to shed weight and go on a health food binge lumber up and come alive Travel is not heavily accentuated but could spring a surprise upon careful crabs

EO July 21 August 21 Despite hassies and expenses this will be a better week as visitors relatives and

foreigners take a keen interest in you you'll a the country succeed in fanning our state outside world as well as threing the searchlight within undoubtedly a rather unique achievement Regarding finance, manufacturers salesmen, agents editors tele-

phone operators chiefs and inter-

















ior decorators will be in their ele ment Healthwise the danger of accidents persists Travel is fore told and will also include con tacts communication correspondence

IRGO

August 22 Sept 22 Funds loans secret affairs transfer shift and possib ly a major move which could change your life are the main trends this week in romance a platonic tie is likely. It is time to launch a project or have the blueprint ready finalise about loans investments and tenders take overs collaborations terms During mid week health safeguards are essential

Sept 23-Oct 22 Adventure a see saw and creativity of rare excellence court cases as well as partner ships a journey with a stop over research and discovery explora the week

IBRA

in relationships, but never a dull moment children and romance tion and excavation constitute

BIRTHDAYS

June 18

Middle sextile Mercury Your creave and communicative genius will bear excellent fruits and you will certainly achieve much April 1991, should have been a landmark Children give lov, romance bloome

June 17

This birth year emphasises events and activities to do with the house and the home but it could apper refer to a journey of a change in your lifestyle. You will himse inuch to do with parents, popularly, and in-three

difficulty to but your best look religible your want to succeed. ari upant of the domestic cent. After February next buthould be compa-

The second of the

if you mistake the woods for the trees, your project will miefire and you will come to greaf A few changes in your Work area are inevitable

June 20

Sun trines Moon This is a winning planatery positioning if you don't succeed you will have only And pe successful in any principle and pe successful in any principle and pe successful in any principle. purbuit

June 21

you are eith you are on and tra for you

June 22

CORPIO

Oct 23 Nov 22 Journey transfer job and profession are not without new opportunities and a wee bit of timely health care could save you a ton of trouble this week Wait a week for romance to be in full bloom Finance promises pro motion perks and also extra work load and your nerves will screech at the tensions and vexa tions If you learn to relax all will be well if you don t there could be health problems

AGITTARIUS

Nov 23 Dec 20 Add loans and finan ce and property to last weeks main trends and the picture will fill in nicely Romance will be hec tic and vibrant. You will certainly make up for lost time Finance will involve a carry over of new deve lopments funds loans expan sions and that too at various levels

APRICORN

Dec 21 Jan 19 This week you dare not neglect your home or your lov ed ones therefore you must burn the candle at both ends Roman ce promises strong attachments sudden separations make it bitter sweet but doubly memorable Strike a balance between the heart and the head and heed the voice of your conscience Finan ce will have an upward swing despite costs and expenses taxes and dulies

QUARIUS

Jan 20 Feb 18 Last week s main trends strictly speaking holds true this week too in romance you will go all out for the kill but with rare skill and timing in finan

ce the scene improves. Bid for a tender a contract or an assign ment A job switch is on the car ds Except the first two days your health will be trouble free Accept invitations or rescue calls or chase a business lead

ISCES

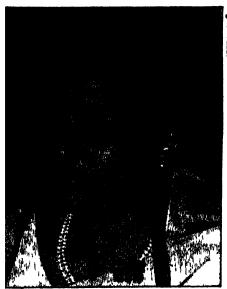
Feb 19 March 20 A sojourn a collabora tion buying/selling/shopping sea change in outlook are the main trends this week Close of the week will be the best for romance in finance despite expenses you do well and promi ses made to you will be kept. Con tracts and commitments are fore



Kiran Choudhary Star of the Central H

an you have clout without being in politics? It may sound unlikely, but ask those who hover on the fringes of politics, who are not exactly in it, but important enough for people to know that they are the ones who are the power houses. High profile? Influential? With an umbilical cord running into politics? You said it.

Some of them are, in fact, in politics, but this time did not enter the fray directly. Some of them had their husbands or mentors standing for elections, and they put their mite behind them, campaigning in right earnest for their 'men'. And some give the permanent impression of being political beings, but the veneer is all. The one common factor is that they all glow like soft lamps in the dark shadows of politics. And may their tribe increase!



Ila Pant: Fighting a proxy war

Ila Pant married into one of the most politically influential families of Uttar Pradesh and soon became the favoured bahuji in Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's home. Pantji was the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and later the Union home minister and Ilaji, as she was known, ran his household after her marriage to K.C. Pant.

Though not personally active on the political front, lla was nevertheless involved in the thick of high level political activity in the Congress party. Which is why her sudden decision to sever links with the Congress(I) was such a shock to old-timers in the party. In the run-up to the election campaign, lla Pant switched sides to join the BJP, much to the dismayof many in the Congress(I). But, it cannot be denied that K.C. Pant had reason to feel shortchanged by the Congress(I) party high command.

In the 1989 elections K.C. Pant made it

clear that he wanted to shift to his home constituency of Nainital which his father had represented, instead of New Delhi from where he was elected in a byelection in 1985. He was instead offered Amroha or New Delhi, and he chose not to contest either. In the present elections as well he was denied the nomination at Nainital at the last minute, when the former chief minister and Union finance minister N.D. Tiwari filed his papers also at the last minute. Ila's break with the Congress(I) came shortly after this incident, though K.C. Pant remained in the Congress(I).

Impeccably attired at all times, Ila for many years was the smiling, attractive face behind K.C. Pant while he was a member of the Council of munisters. The self-effacing presence behind the defence minister, Ila never thrust herself into the limelight, but she has always displayed a strong, determined personality with a will of her own. When the Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachev visited India in 1988, Ila struck an immediate rapport with Raisa Gorbachev, as she accompanied the Soviet President's wife to various functions in the capital.

It was in the past few years that Ila began to take an active interest in politics, taking up a more visible role, and concentrating on developmental works in the Kumaoni region in the UP hills. But it was thought that her more active involvement was on behalf of her son, Sunil. Many believed that, with or without the consent of K.C. Pant, Ila was creating a niche for Sunil in political life. But immediately after poining the BJP Ila Pant adopted a more high profile role and went on a tour, addressing public meetings in UP. She had moved out of the shadow of her husband into the harsh political glare herself.

One of the most striking glamour girls in the political circles is **Kiran Chaudhary**. To the uninitiated, she is the daughter-in-law of the one-time strongman of Haryana, Bansi Lal, bride of his youngest son Surinder, a member of Rajya Sabha.

But Kiran moves in the most exclusive Congress(I) circles though pa-in-law Bansi Lal has left the confines of the party, floating his own Manch, the Haryana Vikas Party. Though not exactly sizzling in Parliament, Kiran is well known as the Star of the Central Hall, where she is a regular visitor. She makes a strikingly attractive appearance in the distinguished visitors' gallery of the Lok Sabha, dressed in her usual white salwar-kameez with a colourful dupatta and an extra large bladi, quite at her ethnic best.

Because of her closeness to the influential in the Congress(I) party, it was said that Bansi Lal's re-emergence in the Congress party was due to Kiran's connections.

tions in the right quarters. Particularly when Bansi Lal became the chief minister of Haryana again in June 1986. Snide comments of this type have been particularly galling for Bansi Lal who finally stopped going to the Central Hall.

Kiran is a lawyer and has a practice of sorts at the Supreme Court, but her main and abiding interest is "politicking" and she is to be seen at all the best places in town.

From being known as "dynamite" in her college days, Renuka Choudhury has, over the years, matured into the "battletank" of the Rajya Sabha. Even as a young housewife, the vivacious Renuka Choudhury created waves in the conservative Hyderabad society, driving an open jeep in a city where few women sit at the wheel. Renuka joined the ranks of the stormtroopers of Telugu Desam in 1984, ably leading the brigade of women workers which helped her to being elected as a municipal councillor in Hyderabad.

Renuka Choudhury first shot into fame during the heady days when the N.T. Rama Rao government was dismissed in August 1984. At a tense meeting of the Telugu Desam the day after Nadendla Bhaskar Rao took over as chief minister, she shouted at Bhaskar Rao (who was sitting on the dais) from the audience, calling him a "traitor". A group of Bhaskar Rao cronies promptly roughed her up and hustled her out of the hall amidst stunned silence from senior party leaders.

The incident catapulted Renuka into NTR's closest circles. She did not take her seat in the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation as bigger rewards for her loyalty were on the way, and she was nominated to the Rajya Sabha. In the House of the Elders, Renuka has provided the lung power for the non-Congress benches, always ready to take on the Congress(I) barrackers. Even the shift to the treasury benches did not make much of a difference to Renuka's fiery performance in the House though the

Jayanthi Natarajan: The touch of class





Maya Alagh: Promising politician

Congress front-benchers frequently mocked her for angling for a ministership.

Not one to be cowed down by attempts at physical intimidation, Renuka's battles in the House have at times extended to loud, angry exchanges in the Central Hall. Verbally, too, Renuka can give as good as she gets. At the farewell function for R. Venkataraman when he became the President, Renuka was referred to as the nightingale of the House and a Congress(I) MP, with an unsavoury reputation, quipped, "And we would like to see the nightingale in a nightie". Renuka's rapid-fire retort to the remark had the MP gasping and turning tail.

Quite a few eyebrows were raised when in June 1986 the Congress(I) revealed that it was going to field Jayanthi Naturajan instead of her aunt and social worker Sarojini Varadappan for the Rajya Sabha seat which had then fallen vacant. Not many Congressmen knew her, but then quietly accepted her nomination, realising that given the crop of yuppies that Rajiv Gandhi was surrounding himself with, it was quite natural for him to nominate the 36-year-old granddaughter of the former Tamil Nadu chief minister, M. Bhaktayatayan han his octogenarian daughter

daughter.
The high profile lawyer of Madras High
Court had started her career as an English
newscaster of Madras Doordarshan before
the national network came into being. And

for Tamil Nadu Congressmen who were used to seeing heavy, matronly women leaders, Jayanthi Natarajan and Vyjayanthimala Bali provided a touch of sophistication, thanks to their socialite images. They, along with Jayalalitha, were the attractive faces in Tamil Nadu's politics.

Though, along with P. Chidambaram, she can claim to represent the suave youthfulness of the Congress in Tamil Nadu, Jayanthi has not been as much a party (Congress) person as Chidambaram has been. She used to surface only during Rajiv Gandhi's visits to Tamil Nadu and usually camped in Delhi, always 'busy' with one of the many Congress committees. As fate would have it, she was just 10 paces behind Rajiv when the dastardly explosion took place.

Though, in Parliament, Jayanthi has been voicing her concern about women's welfare, particularly the antiquated judiciary system with its many anti-women laws, she belongs to the silent majority of Congress MPs who did not protest against the Muslim women's divorce Bill. In private, however, she expressed her opposition to the amendment when her lawyer friends questioned her.

Jayanthi came to the limelight during the AICC(I) session in Madras in 1988, being one of the key organisers and always seen with a walkie-talkie which, when not in use, was seductively tucked away between her sari and her waistline.

Though she dislikes newsmen com-

menting on her dress while discussing something more serious in Parliament, Jayanthi does look chic in expensive churidar kurtas, something alien to a Congresswoman from her state. A story goes in the state party circles that once she complained to a senior leader about how newsmen noticed only her dress and make-up. The leader is said to have quipped, "You should do something more worthwhile for the press to take note of, otherwise they'll keep writing about your dress."

With only a year left for her to go in the Rajya Sabha, Jayanthi still has time to make those words come true. After all, she would often infuse new thinking in the Congress.

Mona Lisa's legendary smile could have set many hearts aflutter, but her living competitor, Maya Alagh of the toothy 'Promise' smile, did one better. In Bangalore last month, Maya chipped in with her bright charm to help launch the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign in its quest for power.

A doctor-cum-model-cum-small screen actress besides now being a politician, Maya, better known for her 'bestseller smile' and her role as the grandmother in



Renuka Choudhury: Battletank of the Rajya Sabha

the television serial, The Sword of Tipu Sultan, smiled her vivacious smile even as the BJP supremo, A.B. Vajpayee, announced her joining the party at a news conference. "Mr Vajpayee is a family friend and when he invited me to join the party and get involved in social work, I could not refuse," she explains.

One would have thought that having made a grand entry into the BJP, Maya would go to the Victor Banerjee-Deepika Chikhalia way and contest the election. But no, not her. For one, she is too

involved in her flourishing medical practice in Bombay (though not many people know her as Dr Maya Alagh) For another, her career with Doordarshan has just taken off after The Sword of Tipu Sultan, and she intends concentrating on that "After the elections are over," she says, emphasising on the first word, "in between shooting and my practice, I intend to devote some

time to community welfare

Not that she has anything against actresses and other people joining politics and straightaway contesting the election An actor or any other professional could make a politician, she feels. And adds. "Rajiv Gandhi was a pilot before he plunged in, M J Akbar was a journalist Even Reagan a small time actor, went on to become the President of the United States of America Sincerity to the profession is important, is what Maya be lieves 'And Deepika I know, is a very sincere person. She will be very good in Parliament '

all, svelte and extremely attractive, I she would be more at home gliding down catwalks, but prefers to look out of place on the rostrum of a Vishwa Hindu Parishad rally or offering flowers at the Somnath Temple at the outset of L K Advani's religio-political rathyatra Gauri Sabharwal, 26, ex fashion model, occa sional lawyer is the "scuppie" (saffron-clad yuppie) par excellence who has all the makings of being the political 'bahu' of the decade once she weds Jayant, the only son of BJP supremo Lai Krishna Advani some

time this autumn

Gauri Sabharwal literally stands out in all the BIP gatherings which she has been attending since the party came into the limelight after the elections in November 1989 She doesn't come from a hardcore political family as such but has been on the periphery since she was born. Her father. Pran Sabharwal, 15 a well known political journalist who was particularly close to the socialists ever since his days as a student leader in Delhi University Pran Sabharwal was among the group of scribes who have been close to Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar long before he entered South Block In fact, Gauri's first public foray was when she walked part of the way with Chandra Shekhar during his samous padyatra in 1983

Gaurn's interest in the BJP is confined to her association with the Advani family The Advants and the Sabharwals have been close family friends for years since their houses adjoin each other in the capital's Pandara Park The Sabharwal twins, Gauri and Gopa, have been childhood friends of Pratibha and Jayant Advani Gaun completed her law degree and did a bit of section modelling before she decided to help Advan during his first Lok Sabha election from the New Delhi constituency in 1989 After Advans won the election, Gauri hovered around in the household, being a sort of political aide to Advani as well as companion to Mrs Kamala Advani Since her daughter went off to Calcutta after getting married in October '89, Gauri played the role of daughter, almost always accompanying Mrs Advani to Parliament, to BIP national executive meetings in various parts of the country and later travell

ing with the rathyatra

It was in March this year that Gauri got formally engaged to Jayant Advani and the wedding will take place around October Though she is not a political activist, Gauri takes a keen interest in the subject, parti cularly in matters pertaining to the BJP She and her fiance and future mother in law are seen in almost all BIP functions Dressed in designer salwar kameez sets the well groomed lady is far removed from the traditional image of a BJP sympathiser But, then she epitomises the new look BIP which has captured the imagination of the urban middle class and will be a person to watch in the next few years

Once Mansur Alı Khan the ex nawab ot Pataudi, plunged into politics, could his Begum, the sparkling Sharmila Tagore, really be far from, if not politics at least campaigning? No way And it is Sharmila ('Rinku' to Tiger and Begum Ayesha to the protocol conscious in his family) who, unflustered by the heat and dust of Bhopal, lent a truly vibrant dimension to her husband's campaign. Even though the performance was live with no scope for re-takes. Indeed, Tiger's efforts moved into higher gear only after Sharmila's appearance, some 10 days after the cam paign launch

Unlike Tiger, Sharmila has not enrolled m the Congress(I) and so her plank was somewhat unique Different, certainly She did not waste her (and the audience's) time espousing the party manifesto's ments instead, her message, delivered with elan and dimpled charm, was "I've come as a wife and not as an abhinetri-

Please give my husband a chance He will at least, try and set right much of what is wrong today " A handsome round of applause invariably followed And it would find an echo at the next halt

As Sharmila had not been regarded as being particularly politically consciousthe limited exposure to durbar-ism notwithstanding—what made her align herself so intimately with an undeniably highprofile campaign? "Simple I had to help Tiger It was something I had to do though I didn't set out trying to 'steal' some of the spothight from the ummidwaar, (candidate)" was Sharmila's riposte

Her reasoning is perfectly logical After all, 'togetherness' is what Tiger and Shar-

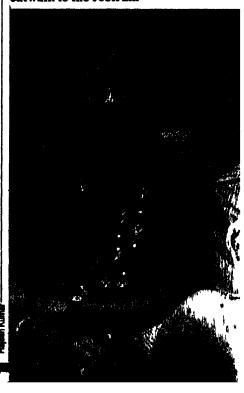


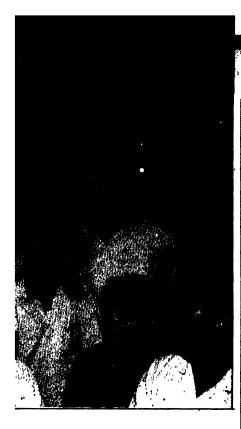
Sharmila Tagore: Sound! Action!

mila have projected in over two decades of marriage Something underlined even in their classy endorsement of a range of fabrics

Sharmila clearly was Tiger's inspiration as she criss crossed both urban and rural segments of the sprawling Bhopal constituency But she denies it was she who encouraged him to switch to khadi "Look, Tiger is over 21 is mature both in age

Gauri Sabharwal with hubby Javant: Fron catwalk to the rostrum





and experience....The decision was his and it wasn't impulsive. If Tiger wasn't committed he would never have stepped onto alien turf."

The turf was new for Sharmila, too. As was the glare of the arc lights. But she adjusted perfectly, leading many to award her a perfect 10. The obvious physical discomforts were, she feels, neutralised by the "genuine and overwhelming response" which greeted her. And it is this that could sustain her interest in politics. Perhaps, because she is the Begum of Bhopal's bahu, Sharmila was accorded plenty of izzat. "Thankfully there was little of curiosity," she says with palpable relief.

Greenhorn though she is, her response was gutsy and astute when, for instance, the sitting MP's followers frequently bombarded her with "Jai Siya Ram". "I would first reply with 'Ram-Ram' and then admonish them for bringing the names of Ram and Sita to their lips so casually. I would ask them to take the names with ahsaas (feeling) and respect. Aren't Ram and Sita much, much bigger than we mortals?"

Sharmila's handling of Shabana Azmi's attack on her and Tiger was equally adroit. She coolly ignored Shabana's claim that she (and not Sharmila) was the real bahu of Bhopal. "I didn't want to engage in a slanging match publicity.... Everyone knows that my mother-in-law is the Begum of Bhopal and as I'm her only son's wife, I can look upon myself as being the bahu of Bhopal," she explains regally.

As for Shabana's charge that Tiger had never bothered about Bhopal, Sharmila counters: "Not everybody is publicityconscious. And not everyone keeps only the headlines in mind....Had we known we would one day enter politics, we would then always have moved around with a photographer."

Shabana may not actually be a member of one of the frontline parties, but the splash she receives would make many a seasoned politician change colour. With envy. It's her desire to remain "unfettered" that has kept her away from parties. Equally, it's her commitment to secularism, for instance, which lands her on the campaign trail as in Bhopal for the Janata Dal's Swami Agnivesh.

Shabana's dramatic entry in Bhopal—after initially turning down requests to root for any candidate whatsoever—electified Madhya Pradesh state's pretty capital city. In some ways it became a real-life Begum (Sharmila) versus a reel-life one (remember Shabana in Shatranj Ke Khilari?) battle, And the audience loved it.

It's not only to take on Sharmila that Shabana decided on Bhopal. For, she has, in the past, worked and walked in tandem (as in the padyatra for communal amity in Meerut) with the saffron-clad Swami. As the soft-spoken Swami put it: "Shabana ka ek commitment hai secularism ke liye...it was wonderful of her to have spent a few days pitching in for me and my party."

Shabana, in fact, was herself offered a National Front ticket for the Lok Sabha around the time the poll schedule was finalised, but she declined. First, because she does not wish to be wholly identified with a particular party and secondly, perhaps, because she has gone on record as having said, "...the process (of getting elected) is disgusting."

Shabana, however, is not the type to oppose for the sake of opposing. Though she is a celebrated Congress-I baiter, she caused more than a flutter when she recently announced she would vote for Sunil Dutt of the Congress(I). Her justification was simple: "Duttsaab works for his constituents and whenever I've addressed slumdwellers'problems, he's attended them..."

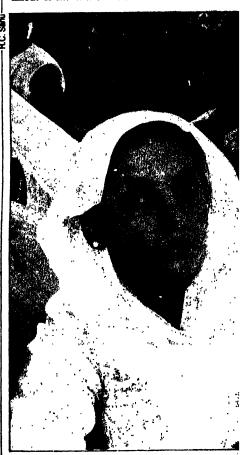
Clearly, the slumdwellers in India's Big Apple, Bombay, have found a voice which reaches far and wide for their myriad woes. Not too long ago, Shabana held centrestage in a headline-hitting fast to catch the attention of the powers-that-be for the benefit of the highly underprivileged. And she is associated with the Bombay-based Nivara Haq Suraksha Samiti, a somewhat low-profile but immensely dedicated set-up.

Shabana's has, of course, not been an apolitical family. Her illustrious father, Kaifi Azmi, was involved with the Communist movement. And so it was not totally shocking when Shabana chose the inaugural ceremony of the government-funded

1997 and a company to the State of the Company of the Company of the company of the Company of t

1989 International Film Festival of India in New Delhi to voice her stinging protest against the brutal killing of theatre stalwart Safdar Hashmi, a Leftist to the core. She promptly became a darling of the Left, eliciting greetings of "Lal Salaam Shabana."

But it appears Shabana has become somewhat disillusioned with the CPI(M), especially after the filming of City of Joy was repeatedly stalled by the ruling party cadres in Calcutta. But it is difficult to gauge whether the 'affair' is indeed over, a fallout of the orchestrated disturbances.



Shabana Azmi: The reel-life Bahu of Bhor

Shabana means business, and her nononsense approach in films is mirrored in her views on the current polity. She is today on the fringe of politics, but the dividing line may one day disappear. And when that does occur, she will not be like a rabbit pulled out of the hat "and put in any which way", as Shabana says of some of the present politicians. For, the gifted actress has already had a high-voltage 'live' interaction at the grassroots level.

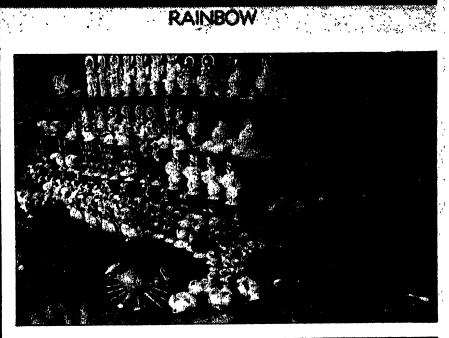
Shubha Singh, Manini Chatterjee, Saritha Rai, G.C. Shekhar and Lokendra Pratap Sahi

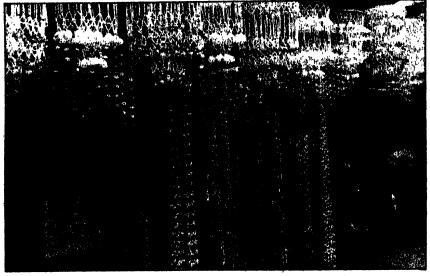




SHELLS

Bijan Chowdhuri focuses on the many splendoured thing







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Rupe Generaly in Moone Bezer

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

Hindi Films

 Joomma Chumma in London: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442)-12, 3, 6, 9.

Recordings of a musical programme on stage at Wembley, starring Amitabh Bachchan, Sridevi, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Anupam Kher, Neelam and others.

• Karz Chukana Hai: Roxy

(Chowringhee Place; 284138)-4 shows

A film by Vimal Kumar, starring Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Shakti Kapoor and Kader Khan. The music is by Rajesh Roshan.

• Kurbaan: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 365108), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 484808). Sunil Dutt, Salman Khan, Kabir

Bedi, Rohini Hattangady, Gulshan Grover and Ayesha Julka are the principal attractions in this film, directed by Deepak Bahry. The music is by Anand Milind.

• Main Pyaasi Hoon (A): New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147)—4 shows; Khanna (APC Road; 552932)—3 shows.

The film stars Jayalalitha, Jaydevan and Jayarekha.

• Meena Bazar (A): Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), (Lower Unitpur Road; 27/273), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 758141)—4 shows; Gem (AJC Bose Road; 249828), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Chhaya (APC Road; 351382), Alochhaya (Be-liaghata Main Road; 355059)—3 shows.

Directed by P. Chandra Kumar and with music by Naresh Sharma, the film stars Rupa Ganguly, Poonam Das Gupta, Om Puri, Shakti Kapoor and debutant Vikram Razdan.

• 100 Days: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440).

Jackie Shroff, Madhuri Dixit, Javed Jaffrey and Laxmikant Berde comprise the main cast of this film, directed by Partho Ghosh. The music is by Ream Lexman.

• Pyar Hua Chori Chori: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917),

Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Read; 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 751757), Ragini (Beliaghata Main Road; 363264).

Mithun Chakraborty, Gautami, Anupam Kher and Shakti Kapoor are the major attractions in this K. Bapaiah film. The music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

Special Events

16 June: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the Hindi play, Baarishwala, directed by Rodney Marriott. The cast includes Rajaram Yagnik, Shakil Khan, B.M. Hada, Sanchayita Bhattacharya, Vinay Sharma, Mehmud Alam and Arun Sharma.

At Gyan Manch (11 Pretoria

Street; 225215/3516).

16-22 June: 3 pm - 8 pm

An exhibition of paintings by the students of Kishalaya North Sam-

ity in the New Gallery.

17 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm
A week-long exhibition of paintings by Ranjit De (Roorke) in the South Gallery.

18 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm A week-long exhibition of paint-

ings by Swapan Kumar Palley in the West Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302).

20 June: 6.30 pm
Padatik Dance Centre presents an evening of Kathak featuring Agni, choreographed by Kumudini Lakhia. This experimental item is based on a poem by Nawai and deals with a contemporary theme. The cast includes Chetna Jalan, Nilanjana Sengupta, Luna Pan,

Paromita Sinha, Sushmita Sur, Ramaprasad Chattopadhyay, Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya, Sheela Mehta, Indrani Sahachowdhury, Anuradha Lahiri and Nandi-ni Sinha, Music: Vijai Shankar.

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria



Chetna Jalan in Agai

Street).

21 June opwards: 3 pm - 8 pm West Bengal Artist Federation will hold a week-long exhibition opaintings in the North Gallery. Suchiamita Ghatak and Dibvendi Bhadra will hold a week-long ex hibition of their paintings in the New South Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arti (Cathedral Road).

22 June: 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the Hindi play, Sakharam Binder based on the man-woman rela tionship, with Kulbhushan Khar banda in the lead. Others in the cast are Chetna Jalan, Shakil Khan, Pradip Roy and Baishakhi Marjit The play is written and directed by Vijay Tendulkar and Shyamananc Jalan, respectively.

At Gyan Manch (Pretoria Street).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5) Al-306 at 1915, Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

To kyo-Bang ko k-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr (6): Al-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2025. London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7):

Al-132/1328 at 1230

Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr. (4): SU-537 at 1525.

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1725.

Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-Calcutta-Hanol: Arr. (2). SU-541 at 0640; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0750. Hanoi-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1615; Dep (2): SU-542 at 1815.

Amman-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184

at 0645. Calcutta-Amman; Dep. (5). RJ-185 at 0530.

Bucharest-Abu Dhabi-Calcutta-Bangkok: Arr. (1): RO-063 at 1045; Dep. (1): RO-063 at

+ Bangkok-Calcutta-Abu Dhabi-Bucharest: Arr. (1): RO-064 at 1945; Dep. (1): RO-064 at 2100. Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep (4): SQ-

420 at 1310. Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): 6Q-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Bangkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4,

6, 7): IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1455.

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr (1, 5). RA-213 at 1355.

Celcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6). 16-723 at 1340, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): BG-092 at 1305, Dep. (7): BG-096 at 1820, Dep. (5, 6): BG-096 at 1935, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4): BG-098 at 2020.

Dhaka-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): BG-091 at 1225, Arr. (7): BG-095 at 1710, Arr. (5, 6): BG-095 at 1855, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4): BG-097 at 1940.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5). **BG-698 at 0905**.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 5): BG-697 at 0825.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (2). KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India T Calcutta-Bombay: Dep '(2). Al-101 at 0230.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): Al-1328 at 1230.

Indian Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-284 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily). IC-176 at 0900 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-274 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0800.

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-765 at 1700, Dep. (6): IC-265 at 1700; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7) IC-766 at 2210, Arr. (6): IC-266 at 2205

Calcutta-Bangaiore: Dep. (1, 2, 4,

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

6, 7): IC-771 at 0620; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6, 7): IC-772 at 1200.

Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-410 at 0615.

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily). IC-409 at

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340, Dep (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0730; Arr. (daily). IC-230

Ex-Servicemen's Coach Service (Airlines House to Calcutta Airport): Departures from Airlines House at 4.30 am, 5.30 am, 7.15 am, 9.30 am, 11.30 am, 2.15 pm 3.15 pm and 5.45 pm. Departures from Calcutta Airport depends upon the arrival of the flights.

at 1630, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): IC-741 at 0835 and IC-743 at 1330; Arr. (daily): IC-742 at 1055 and IC-744 at 1550.

Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-285 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car Nicober: Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530; Arr. (1): IC-288 at 1220.

Calcutta-Tezpur-Jorhat-Calcutta: Dep. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1130, Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0600; Arr. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1525, Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 0955.

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (1): IC-221 at 1300, Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) IC-221 at 1100: Arr. (1): IC-222 at 1520, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). IC-222 at 1320.

Calcutta-Dibrugarh: Dep. (2, 3, 4 5, 6, 7): IC-201 at 1400; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-202 at 1730.

Calcutta-Silchar-Imphal: Dep. (daily): IC-255 at 0610; Arr (daily): IC-256 at 1050.

Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-257 at 1130; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-257 at

Calcutta-Bhubaneswar-Nagpur-Hyderabad: Dep. (3, 5, 6). IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (3, 5, 6): IC-270 at 2040.

Celcutta-Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910.

Calcutta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-277 at 1720; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-278 at 2210.

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at

Madras-Vishakapatnam-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6). IC-541 at 0915.

Vavudoot IIII

Calcutta-Agartais-Kaliashahar: Dep. (2, 4): PF-729 at 0710; Arr. (2, 4): PF-730 at 1120.

Calcutta-Shillong-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): PF-701 at 0710, Dep. (7): PF-701 at 1210:

^{*} No traffic rights on Calcutta-Sharjah-Calcutta and Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Calcutta, + No traffic rights on Calcutta-Bangkok-Calcutta and Calcutta-Abu Dhabi-Calcutt

Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): PF-702 at 1120, Arr. (7): PF-702 at 1620, Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (7): PF-729A at 0710, Arr. (7): PF-730A at 1140

Calcutta-Jamahedpur: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-717 at 0630, Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717A at 1330; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-718 at 0825, Arr. (2, 4, 6). PF-718A at 1525.

Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi: Dep. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-705 at 0855; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7). PF-706 at 1300
Calcutta-Agartala-Aizawi-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-705A

at 1250; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-706A at 1635.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-707 at 0855; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-708 at 1150.

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		Dep Mon. Wed, Fri. & Sun. Arr-Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat.			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express Dep-Tues	13-45	2612
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3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020		14-10	Saturday only Cochin Harbour Terminus-	13-45	2649
3021	22-00	Mithile Express	5-00	3022	-	14-10	Guwahati Weekiy Express	13-40	2048
2557	6-00	Kancheniunga Express	20-50	2558	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
5659	17-35	Kamrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660			Thursday only		
3317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	
3029	17-15	Coalfield Express	10-30	3030	ł		Terminus Weekly Express		
3035 3031	18-20	Assneol Express	8-45	3036	1		(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3025	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032			Saturday only		
3023	23-00	North Bihar Express Dep—Wednesday Arr—Friday	11-10	3026	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)	13-45	2651
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express Dep-Tues. Thurs. & Sat.	6-00	3072			Dep—Fri. & Sun Arr—Tues. & Fri.		
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		Arr-Tues. & Wed.	1	1		14-10	Bangalore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
1171	15-25	Shipre (Indore) Express Dep—Tues. & Wed.	7-30	1172		14-10	Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cultack)	10-10	20/3
3327	15-25	Arr—Sat. & Sun. Shektipunj (Chopen) Express. Dec & Arr—Mon. & Fri.	7-30	3328	2610	22-35	Monday only Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter-	22-15	_
2181	15-25	Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express Art & Dep—Thursday	7-30	2182			minus Weskiy Express (via Howrsh) Thursday only		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patha Weekly Express (via Howrah)	13-45	2809
3143	19-00	Sealdah Dericeling Mell	8-45	3144			Wednesday only		
3153	21-40	Gour Express	6-15	3154	1				
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3152			round the clock information of		
3133	20-45	Mughel Saral Express via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	trains,	please di er inform	lai 203545-54 for in-coming train nation. For information about	ie; 20353! reservati	i-44 for
3103	18-20	Shagirathi (Laigole) Express	10-25	3104	Caster	n and So	uth Eastern Reliways trains, dia	# 203500	(mont)
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	10 C	Dep & Arr-Wed. Fri. & Sun.			Ausau		7 =J·		

JUNIOR WHIRL & Hal Kaufman



PAIR GAME! How many pairs of cree tures can be found in this Noah s Ark drawing? A dozen pairs? Fifteen? More?

 CITY GAIT! A certain U.S. city is made up of cot and sun while another consists of TIME and LABOR Rearrange letters to identify the cities Tucson and Baltimore are the uties

Īī	A	-	A STATE
2		_	(7)
3			
4			-4 /\
5			
6			
7	<u>F 1</u>	<u>R</u> <u>E</u>	<u>MAN</u>

FIREMAN'S CARRY!

Beginning with the word A add one letter in each step and rearrange letters as necessary to form new words in accordance with the folwords in accordance with the following definitions
1 Article (already in place)
2 Pa's consort
3. Ending for Bet, Super, Spid-

- 4. Like Cindrella's stepsisters 5 Lone US state to have just one US state neighbour
- Smoke-eater (already in

Time limit 2 min

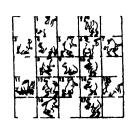
6 aniell 8 meek + Men 5 Me 7 / Lenne 6 Meine 6

. FROGBOUND! Challenge, below, is to remove 16 frogs in successive jumps so that only frog no. 9 remains and is returned to its original spot at centre Jumps may be made across, down or diagonal-

To begin, jump no 9 over 13, 14, 6, 4, 3, 1, 2, 7, 15, 17, 16, 11

Which other frogs jump, and where?

Jump 12 over 8 tump 10 over 5 and 12 Jump 9 over 10



HOCUS-FOCUS





CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom penals. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below!

Differences 1 Files is miseins 2 But is shorter 5 Bats in miseing 4 Number is fleve in miseing

FUNSPOT



WET PAINT! Alse, rain is falling, and our artist friend must deeh for cover Colors: 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh tones 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words BESTOWAL

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points. Possible anagene Slow, best



QUIZ O Neil O'Brien

Tarnesh Menta, Patha, has sent a list of Beatles LPs and wants to have details about them I II deal with just one—Revolver, my favourite

On August 5, 1966 an LP appeared in the London record shops which, were it not for the fact that approximately one million copies had been ordered in advance, might have seemed to stand little chance of being noticed on the shelves its cover amid its rivals Carnaby colours was plain black and white a collage of photo-fragments spiralling through what looked like palm fronds but proved on close inspection to be hair, encircling four silhouetted faces so instantly recognisable, it was not thought necessary to print their collective name. Who else in the world would announce themselves in graphics reflecting the smartest magazines? Who would call a record album simply Revolver, investing even that commonplace pun with the sleekness of some newminted avant-garde? Who but the Beatles would have confidence colossal enough

to be so chastely downbeat? Revolver was presented like no pop album before it as a continuous, almost narrative performance There was, first of all, to underline this, some stagey coughing and throat-clearing There was then George Harrison singing 'Taxman', his first wholly on-



11th Question: What is an 'Electric Kiss'? (Ramendra Nath Biswas, C/o LIC of India, Raghunathganj Branch, P.O. Raghunathganj, Murshidabad 742225)

Ans: Because its metal frame acts as a sort of giant lighting rod, lovers who

kiss atop the Empire State Building at times report a shocking experience. There is a tremendous buildup of static electricity near the top of the building and under the right atmospheric condition one will get what is called an 'Electric Kiss'. It's like static shock and is not dangerous.



ginal and successful song, a hymn of hate against the Inland Revenue invoking as a derisive counterpoint the names of real politicians There was Eleanor Rigby, sung by Paul alone with a string octet a song more like a short story about a lonely woman, picking up other people's wedding rice There was John's 'I'm Only Sleeping , answering back Paul s sentimental conscience with a paean to unrepentant idleness There was 'George's Love You To, burdened with Indian sitars, but then the stunning simple charm of Paul's 'Here, There and

Everywhere There was 'Yellow Submarine, a song for children (as it seemed) perfectly suited to Ringo's happy drone accompanied by slurpings and gurglings ringing ships bells, a subaqueous brass band and commands from the bridge in a John Lennon funny voice, and then John's nonfunny voice, in 'She Said She Said, among graffiti-like guitar phrases, actually mentioning death.

tioning death
On Side 2, to glorify the weather there was 'Good Day Sunshine There was 'And Your Bird Can Sing, more lucid Lennon nonsense, and Paul s pretty, self-pitying 'For No One There was 'Doctor Robert', a libe against some medical man or other There was George's earnest 'I Want to Tell You, and then Paul's 'Got To Get You Into My Life, a soul song as brassy, neat and rousing as ever came out of the American South

In those 14 songs, the LP record ceased to be a catchpenny gimmick and became a creative medium as credible as canvas or print In that one album, too, a mood and moment are caught as exactly as in the pithiest contemporary journalism For Revolver was London as she flourished in the swinging summer after-glow in was hot pavements, open windows, King's Road bistros and the euphoria of England's soccer World Cup triumph It was the British accent, once again allconquering

It was the present and a portent of things to come For the Beatles now recognised their power as dictators over era after era. The next era was in the final Revolver track, 'Tomorrow Never Knows, a song utterly unlike the other 13 John Lennon sang it, in the flat barely tuneful voice which had replaced his exuberant mock ing grin Against a back ground of eerie twangling and squibbled backwardtapes, the voice intoned not a lyric but an exhortation 'Turn off your mind, relax and float downstream Lav down all thought, surrender to the void Listen to the colour of your dreams Or play the game Existence to the end Of the beginning sang the voice as the strange episode faded, leaving its one million listeners baffled, but determined to understand

QUESTIONS

Which famous classical composer's death bicentenary will be cale-balled this year? (Bojit, balled by Bojit, Balled balled by Bojit, Balle

2) Who is the author of A Prisoner's Scripbook? (Manoj Kumer Singh, Palrelii 43)

3) For what respon was the Unique Shever Falace in water built? (Submits 1886), Erbert 37 4) Who bowled the very first ball in World Cup orlclest? (Bishwarnoy Sengupta, Chalbasa)

B) What does 'H.I.S.' on a grayestone stand for? (Raitesh Varma, Caloutta 58)

6) Mas India and the first runner-up represent the country at which contests? (Rahmat Ali, Califalite 14)?) Which Edmbey Simster ence had a football learn called Sambey Symmotol? (Space Should be a football learn called Sambey Symmotol?

8) What is the official name of Wesphinster Abbey? (Arun Goswami, Calcutta

Sarier, in England a skull was engraved on the vection ring for a specific reason. What did k signify? (Arun Kumer Purchill, Califoldia 7)

M What is ischuria? Sheehem Anjum, Calcut-

ANSWERS

A CHARLES

Pien, gi The Calleglate Church gi St Peter. Incessope to the couple that incessope to the couple that inve is as mighty as death.

. Konid contests, respec-

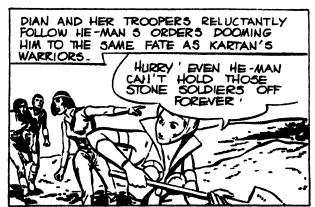
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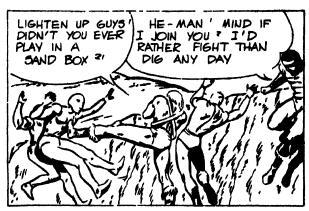
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COMICS















ARCHIE



S. J. W. M. St. L. Berry Co.



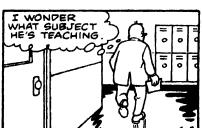














MOOSE MILLER By Bob Weber



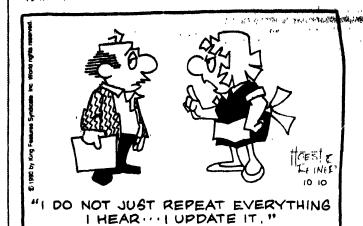






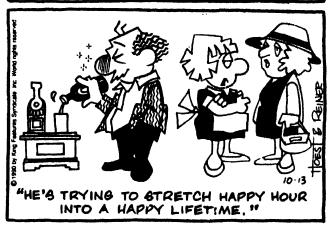












GARFIELD By Jim Davis





























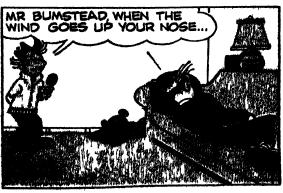


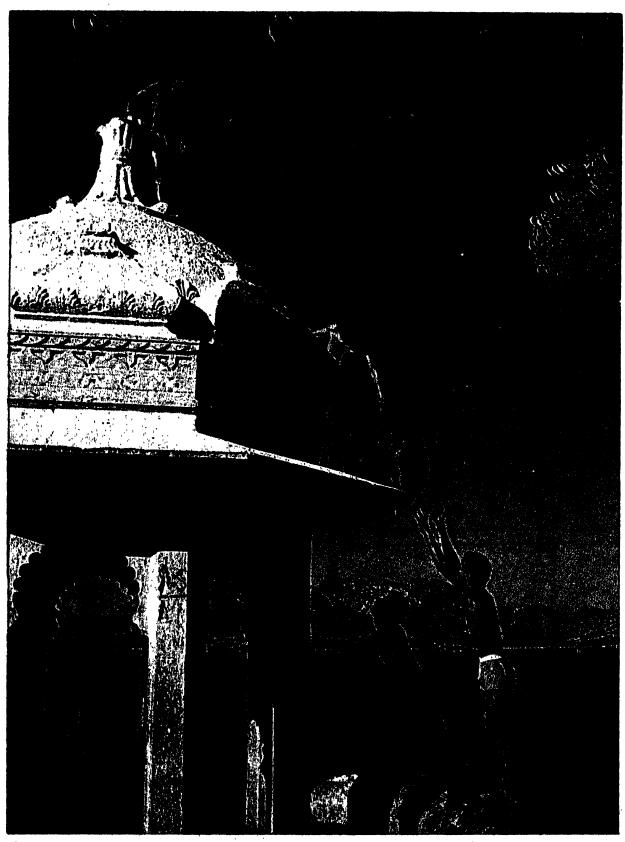












Photograph: Ashoke Paul



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JK STEEL

Deadly Ashwini

The cover story on Ashwini Nachappa (Princess of the Track', June 2) was informative and the photo coverage beautiful.

The label of Indian Flo-Jo' was, however, not' totally suitable. Her outward appearance may be like Flo-Jo's, but she has a long way to go as far as athletics are concerned. We hope she will take up the torch from P.T. Usha. Siddhartha Das, Gushkara (W.B.)

Athletics has never got sufficient publicity, so one was glad to see the story on Ashwini.

Bapin Dey Purulia (W.B.)

Oof! The pictures of Ashwini were deadly! R. Srinivasan,

Fitting Statement

The satirical piece, "The Delhi Durbar Stakes' (April 28) was extremely entertaining. The headline itself was a fitting statement about the present political scenario.

Madhurima Mandal, Calcutta

Next: 'Hangover Mornings'?

You have once again exposed your moral bank-ruptcy by publishing the extract from Shobha De's Starry Nights' (May 26).

As a dedicated reader of THE TELEGRAPH ever since its inception, I find it ex-

> Ashwini Nachappa: Princess off the track, too!

tremely depressing that you continue to ignore requests to avoid such fare as it harms impressionable

young minds. Vivek Agarwal, Calcutta

■ The extract from Shobha De's latest literary work may have been a De-light to peruse, but it wasn't the right masala to be used as a cover story (despite the deletion of all the hot parts). What we need is sex education and not titillation.

After Socialite Evenings and Starry Nights, what will Shobha give us next? Hangover Mornings?

Pradeep Jain, Calcutta

■ It is clear that the Colour Magazine is not a family magazine. It is a seductive magazine and the extract is



CONTENTS

The Telegraph

23 JUNE 1991

Kerala went 100 per now Burdwan district in West Bengal follows suit. A detailed report on the 'educated' district.

An authoritative analysis on the merits of the Hubble.

A story on the conservation of the whooping crane.

SECTIONS

Heritage Inner Eye

18 An

20 7 Days

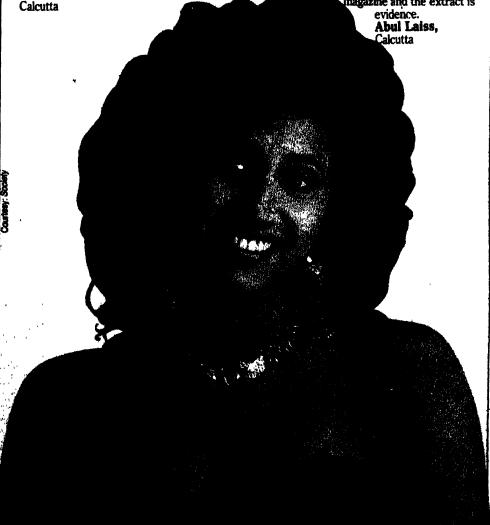
Junior Whirl

Quiz

Comics

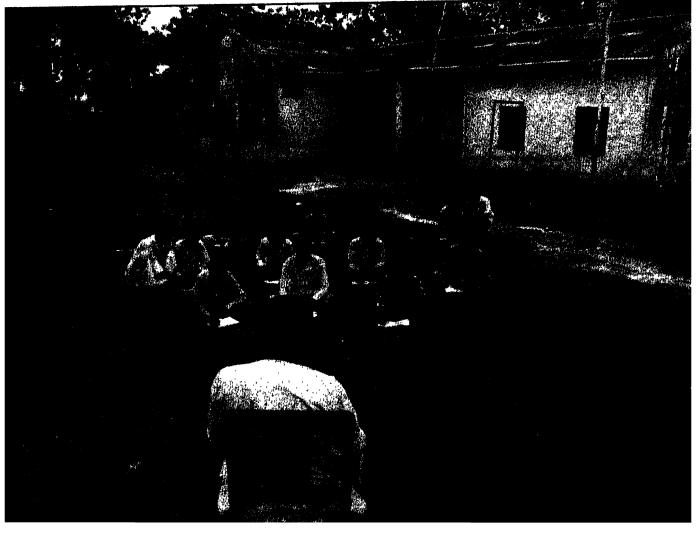
Candid Camera

Cover: Sunil K. Dutt









AND THEN THERE WAS LIGHT

The low, slate-grey clouds are spitting a cold, relentless rain. Little children, clayey mud between their toes, slip and slide down the muddy paths or slosh in the waters of the cemented irrigation canal, bisecting Narrigram, on the outskirts of Burdwan town.

Narrigram is the unacceptable face of Burdwan, the state's first literate district. It is three months since volunteer trainers, Brindaban and Gopinath Mandal, gave their final lecture at the "village classroom", a thatched hut open on two sides. Heaped in one corner of the adult literacy centre are drying branches and bales of yellow-brown straw. Tethered to a bamboo pole, a goat nibbles at dead leaves; its black droppings and smashed matchboxes lie scattered on the floor. Only the fading letters in Bengali, written in chalk on one wall is testimony to the dedication of Brindaban and Gopinath, "Getting 70 people to class at 8 every evening was never easy. The men worked in fields. The women had to cook, clean and look after their children. Only about 30 turned up every evening." says Gopinath.

On cold December nights, the "students" huddled in their huts, instead of studying at the literacy centre. "December was too cold. We had to close down," regrets Brindaban, in his 20s and unemployed like Gopinath. After five months of sustained coaching, only 28 of the adult illiterates of Narrigram sat for the linal evaluation. The Mandals expect 22 of them to pass.

In her darkened hut, dimly lit by a shaft of grey sunlight through the open doorway, Rekha Rajmal (30) wishes that the plague of illiteracy was removed. "I couldn't go to class for a month. Even our boys get married when they are 17 to 18 years old. We are poor people," she explains, a ghost of a giggle in her throat. One of the better students, she can read and with a little help, even dashed off a postcard to chief minister Jyoti Basi. "I have learnt a lot, but I wish we were continuing," she wrote. Learning a rough arithmetic has helped her work, the claims. "I supply milk to people Nov, I can keep accounts."

As a young girl, Shiela Bera had pleaded with her parents to send her to

Burdwan district gives the literacy drive a big boost. **Srinjoy Chowdhury** reports

Photographs: Sunil K. Dutt

school. They never agreed. Now, she can read and write a little, but cannot identify the map of India in her primary reader. "I can write my name, but little else... We work the whole day... I can't memorise very much," reports Lalmoni Rajmal, a middle aged woman, while Bholanath Bairagya (30) now finds its easier to run his tea-stall after six months of the adult literacy programme. Dhulot Rajmullo, who wears only a lungi and a wide grin, is waiting for classes to resume. "There were a few lessons about us chasi bhais," he says, a flash of uncertainty in his voice, "I learnt some thing, others may have learnt more." If the mists of illiteracy still

shroud Narrigram, Sultanpur, near Kalna, is proof that the impossible can be achieved. "Sultanpur is nearly 100 per cent litera-

Armed with a new knowledge

te," crows K.P. Dhali, the block development officer of Kalna with justifiable pride. "We are first in development programmes. We are tops in adult literacy. We are the first in everything."

In a gloomy classroom at the Sultanpur Junior Basic School, the Burdwan Zilla Saksharata Samiti (BZSS)'s programme for the total eradication of literacy is still going on. Seated on the floor in a crude semi-circle are a dozen of the 1.2 million adults in the district covered by the literacy programme. Glued to lesson 11 on 'Paribesh Dushan' (environmental pollution) are a dozen pairs of eager eyes. "Look at the illustration."



asks volunteer-trainer Rahamat Ali Shaikh (23). Hesitantly, the eves turn towards the illustration of black fumes belching from factory chimneys. "Does everything look clean?" asks Shaikh. The solitary 'yes' is drowned by the chorus of 'no'. Shaikh sat for his undergraduate examinations only recently. "My professors asked me to take these classes. They said I had a responsibility. That I owe it to the people." Like many of the one lakh volunteer trainers who were given special training for five days, the bespectacled and forty-ish Nirmal Kumar Roy, is unemployed. "I may not be making a living. But at least, I am doing something useful."

At another literacy centre in Sultanpur, volunteer-teacher Sabita Guha pro--udly notes that 20 of her 22 students stayed the course for the entire six months. "Deke deke aante hoto (I had to persuade them to come). It was difficult," she remembers. Many of the students came not only for themselves but also to help their children. Dipali Rani Sarkar (30), mother of four, regrets that her parents did not encourage her to study. "But if I learn to read and write, I will be able to help my children," she feels.

xactly how many of Burdwan's 12 Elakh illiterates have crossed the barriers of darkness is not certain. By February 1991, census officials had recorded a literacy surge, upto 62 per cent from 42.43 per cent in 1981. Right through March and April, volunteer trainers conducted their classes, chipping away at the edifice of illiteracy and ignorance. At the invitation of Asim Burman, the district magistrate and executive vicepresident of the BZSS, an external evaluation team arrived in Burdwan, disbelief probably creeping into their thoughts. "How could 12 lakh people numbed by centuries of darkness be awakened in six months?" was the unasked question. The team, comprising Mohit Bhattacharya, vice-chancellor, Burdwan University, Dr A.K. Jalaluddin, project director, Basic Education and Development, UNI-CEF, New Delhi, Satyen Maitra, director, State Resource Centre, West Bengal, and Mushtaq Ahmed, member, executive committee, National Literacy Mission, selected 1,025 sample centres for random testing. Though 2,430 learners (12 per cent of the 19,066 illiterate learners on roll at the centres selected) did not sit for the evaluation tests, 90.3 per cent of those who did, fulfilled the National Literacy Mission's requirements by possessing a passable knowledge of reading, writing and 'rithmetic. "It was beyond our expectations," admitted Mohit Bhattacharya.

The comprehensive internal evalua-

the problem of the 12 lakh illiterates targetted by the BZSS. Although 9,86,824 or 82.22 per cent are now literate, over two lakh people remain unlettered despite the BZSS's best efforts. "About 90 per cent of the people (according to the external evaluation report) have put illiteracy behind them," declares Burman, flush with heady optimism. "But there are weak areas, and 'mopping up operations' have to be conducted before we begin our post-literacy programme." Additional district magistrate Rajiv Sinha points out, "Teaching over nine lakh people to read and write in six months is a great achievement by any standard," But he readily admits that some people may have lapsed into illiteracy already. Modest as ever, Nirupam Sen, district secretary of the CPI(M), believes that three in four people or 76 to 77 per cent of the targetted group are literate. Many party cadres were urged to work as volunteer trainers by Sen. "What greater service can a party worker give to the people? Left to itself, the district administration would have been in difficulties, trying to reach so many people in only six months. This required political will. But we told our workers not to treat this as party work," adds Sen.

External evaluators Mohit Bhattacharya and Mushtaq Ahmed confirm that the BZSS's success is genuine, and not a victory on paper, recorded with great fanfare in the literacy ledgers of the district administration. "The BZSS did succeed. Ninety per cent of the learners achieved the literacy norms," wrote Prof. Bhattacharya. Even earlier, Dr B.K. Roy Burman, senior professor, Centre for Studies of Developing Societies, who conduct-

ed an independent survey half-way through the programme, noted that "the performance was spectacular in the short run. I have not come across a single place where the people are unaware of the programme or the existence of a nearby literacy centre," he said. Other observers preferred to unequivocally shower praise. "It appears that there is perfect understanding between the administration and the elected panchayat bodies," reported Prof Paramesh Acharya, of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, another mid-term evaluator.

A famous victory is near but still incomplete. Many parts of Burdwan are yet to receive the blessings of literacy; the first flickers of flame are yet to reach the areas of darkness. "We are weak in Katwa, even weaker in Burdwan Sadar. and in Purbasthali, we couldn't find volunteer trainers to open enough literacy centres," admits Asim Burman. "Mobilising the urban unorganised poor, the rickshawpuller, the waiters in the roadside tea-stalls, is difficult...and then there are the lumpen elements," contends Nirupam Sen. "Motivating a rickshawpuller is a challenge. Why should he spend an hour in class everyday when he can earn some money during that time?" feels Rajiv Sinha. Even in the organised sector, workers often shuttle between their factories in the Durgapur-Asansol belt and their villages in UP and Bihar. "So even it 70 per cent of the people are literate now, we have done what most people considered impossible," adds Sinha.

But the figures in cold print tell only part of the story; of the hope and coura

Bringing literacy closer home



ge, of inspiration and iron will, of sheer perseverance overcoming despair. This is the victory of the common man: the volunteer trainers, the peasants, the labourers, the indigent, the overlooked. Success did not come in an instant flash of inspiration but through attention to detail and boring heroism. But against one lakh people, properly motivated and armed with weapons of education, even centuries of stagnation is no match.

If superstition and sheer inertia were major impediments, the adult literacy programme's mortal enemy was shortage of time. "It was always a race," remembers Rajiv Sinha. "There was never any breathing space." Two months was all the district administration had: the weapons of war-books and blackboards; paper and pencils-had to be distributed. And the soldiers, a motley crew of irregulars-housewives and party hacks, students and school teachers and even the unemployed-united behind the banner of literacy.

At the top of the literacy pyramid stood the 114 resource persons, specially trained by the State Research Centre. The 2,519 master trainers, briefed by the resource persons taught the 98,366 volunteer trainers who were placed in charge of the 12 lakh illiterates. "Our first major decision was to have two volunteer trainers per learning centre so that one could help the advanced students and the other, those who were lagging behind," says Sinha.

A whirlwind survey outlined the challenge before the BZSS: 13.5 lakh of the district's 48.35 lakh people were illiterate. A 1.5 lakh illiterate children between six and nine years were enrolled in local





Opening up a whole new world

primary schools. For the others, September 26, the birth anniversary of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, was D-Day. "We made a tagging list and every learner was tagged to a centre, which gave the volunteer trainers a complete idea of who their students were."

For long-term success, community involvement was the major criterion. The administration did not thrust the programme on the people; it left them with certain tasks. Every literacy centre received Rs 15 for making a crude, but usable blackboard. Every centre received kerosone, but the people provided the hurricane lanterns. "We felt that if the community could not provide two lanterns for an hour every night, they would never survive," says Sinha.

Even a remote possibility of failure was an unacceptable risk. Taking no chances, the district administration call ed in the gentle persuaders from early autumn. "Banchte hobe; lekhapora shikhte hobe (We have to live, we have to learn," was the slogan seen everywhere. No politician ever campaigned harder than the BZSS officials. There were door to-door visits and rallies, street corner meeting and torchlit processions, and even special literacy stalls during the festivals.

From the middle of October began the jatras. Crammed into a bus, a whole troupe of singers and dancers, and even magicians and martial arts experts toured the villages drumming up support for the literacy campaign. "The bus would go from village to village. We paid the fuel costs and other expenses,. The villagers were the generous hosts, paying for the food," says Sinha. From Madhya Prades h came the guests, Nukkad Natak Dal, and from Malda, the Gambhira and Donini folk artistes.

By December, learners' interest, tenuous in many cases, was flagging. There were disgruntled murmurs: too many panchayats and lower level officials had made promises to the people or volunteer teachers that could not be kept. And General Winter, bitter and disruptive as ever, intervened. "Twenty per cent of our centres were closed for seven to 10 days in December. Eighty per cent of the lite racy centres were affected," adds Sinha The campaign was dying.

It was time to go to the people. Every day, Asim Burman and Mahboob Jahedi, Sabhadhipati, Burdwan Zilla Parishad, stumped through the villages campaigning for the project. Weak areas, where community involvement was negligible. often because of political reasons, were identified. The harvest was gathered. And the hardships of the winter were over. Midterm evaluations also revealed deficiencies in the technical output, for which a literacy calender (described as the sharpest weapon in the war against illiteracy) was devised. There were handouts for volunteers and even a crash reorientation course and postal coaching. The spurt in attendance recorded in the DM's computers began in February. By March, 94 per cent of the people were attending the adult literacy class.

The granary of Bengal, Burdwan also has a grimy industrial face. The Durgapur Steel Plant, a maze of steel pipes and chimneys belching sulphurous orange smoke is the setting for 50 literacy centres, where workers and migrant labourers attend classes for over an hour Gnarled and greying, every day Baleswar Dubey, began a new life six months ago. "My parents died when I was very young. I never got the opportunity to learn," he says. The ageing Dubey insists that his memory will not fail him. "My hair has greyed. For what? For torgetting what I learn?" he asks spiritedly.

Amidst the clanging of metal Adalat Hussain Khan, an employee of the steel plant's coke oven plant, takes classes in Urdu "Urdu is more difficult to learn than Hindi or Bengali," reports Khan "What you can learn in one month in a Hindi class, it takes nine months to pick up," he says, adding that classes should have continued. "Many of my students haven't completed the first text," he regrets.

In the rust belt, classroom attendance figures have plunged because of the movements of migrant labourers. When classes began at the Kamala Rice Mill in Burdwan Sadar last October, about 30 illiterates were attending volunteer trainer Kuldeep Singh's classes.

But more recently, attendance at Singh's classes have thinned. As the generator hums in the background and the aroma or freshly-milled rice wafts through the air, only 15 people sit around the blackboard Lit by a single electric bulb. "Sab log desh chale gaye hain. Yeh lagan ka samay hai (Everyone has gone home. This is the marriage season)," he explains.

While all the political parties support-



Taking time off to learn

ed the BZSS' crusade, the support of the trade unlons, especially the CITU, proved to be crucial. "Our frontal organisations, 'ke the CITU and the DYFI, took the initiative," says Nirupam Sen. A number of trade union members were persuaded to work as volunteer trainers.

If the restlessness of the migratory workers in the mining-industrial belt impeded the literacy drive, the sheer inaccessibility of many of the tribal areas was a special challenge. "We went deep into the interior areas," remembers Rajiv Sinha. An afternoon silence hangs over the tribal areas. Forests of broadleafed sal flank the roads, slick after a summer shower. A solitary fox, furry and greybrown, slinks away into the thickets. Learning centres at Jirjira, in the Bud Bud police station area, opened in September last year, but closed down last March. "I wish I could have learnt a little more," is the familiar lament, this time by Moyna Mundy, an Adivasi housewife. Chickens, yellow little balls of fluff, peep in the background. Freshly harvested boro paddy lies in a golden yellow heap in a corner. A young housewife, mother of two children, kicks halfheartedly at a sickle lying on the ground. Deprived of regular academic interaction, Mundy's newly acquired knowledge is rusting away. "I want to study. I will go to class if they resume. But I can't study at home. There is never any time," she declares.

Early misfortunes prevented Sukumar Karmakar (21) the village blacksmith from going to primary school. His arms stained by grease, and the smithy's black grime, Karmakar remains interested in his studies. "His handwriting is better than that of the volunteer trainers," says a local villager. "I have read through the first text and part of the second," asserts Karmakar." So when classes resume, I won't have too many problems."

An abiding interest in Bengali films also ensured that attendance figures dipped on Saturday as many learners sat before the battery powered TV sets at the panchayat office. "In the end, we had to switch off the sets," said a volunteer trainer in Jijira.

Literacy rate figures in the tribal areas are encouraging, even impressive, but never in the spectacular 90 per cent category. "When we started off, the class had 18 students. But then, a few women died and others just stopped coming. In the

end, just 10 of us attended regularly,' said a woman in Jijira. Of the three books, she has waded through one and can sign her name. "Five months isn' much," believes Chaina Ruidas (18), as she clutches a baby suffering from skir infection. "Women have to cook. Some were hugely pregnant during those months...many could not go," she said.

f the target group of 12 lakhs, four in Tive are officially literate. But many can only sign their names and hesitantly read a few lines. Functional literacy is still a distance away. "Some learners got 80 per cent marks in our tests, but they won't be able to write two sentences about a football match," says Sinha, who asserts that the National Literacy Mission's standards may not make someone functionally literate. Amidst the achieve ments, there are shortcomings," claims Nirupam Sen, who unerringly points a finger at the lack of adequate infrastruc tural facilities in primary schools where 1.5 lakh illiterate children between the ages of six and nine have been admitted.

The dim glow of early literacy has given the people an new awareness, a confidence they never had. "In the past we had to ask people to bring their children to the immunisation camps. Now, they are coming themselves," says Sinha. "Ever Muslim women who took part in the literacy camps are choosing to be sterilised," adds Sen.

Why has the literacy programme suc ceeded when so many government initia tives have failed? "Because it was a community project, not just something the government did," says Burman. Everyone was involved—schoolteachers, even kerosene dealers and post office person nel, says the district magistrate.

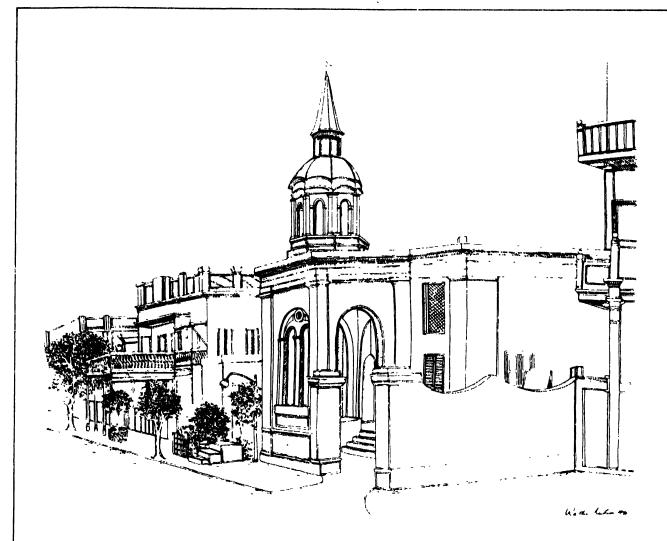
The six-month long adult literacy programme for 12 lakh students was only Part I of the crusade. After the "mopping up programme," which will last a few months to raise the weaker areas to a certain standard, the post literacy programme will begin. If the literacy programme was teacher based, the post literacy programme will be learner based, says Burman. Initial plans include having a post literacy centre in every village. "We would like to have a reading room and a library in each centre. The centres will also be built up as development centres for activities involving the entire village, "says Sinha.

The future of the neo-literates of Burdwan depends on the success of the post-literacy centres. One day, perhaps, in the near future, the last illiterate in Burdwar will be able to read and write. Only then the district will emerge from the shroud of centuries of darkness into a radiant

light.



NABABIDHAN BRAHMO SAMAJ



Situated at 95 Keshab Chandra Sen Street near College Street market in north Calcutta, the Nababidhan Brahmo Samaj was founded by the great Brahmo leader, Acharya Keshab Chandra Sen. Established in 1861, it was initially known as the Bharat Varshiya Brahmo Samaj. The Samaj temple was built in 1869.

The Nababidhan Brahmo Samaj has always occupied a significant position among the Brahmos. It was frequented by none other than Sri Sri Ramakrishna who was quite close to Sen. In fact, Sen too would often visit the saint at Dakshineswar. It was the Nababidhan's journal that first carried reports about Ramakrishna, and the devotees of this Samaj held the Hindu saint in high esteem. They even joined his funeral procession.

The Nababidhan Brahmo Samaj has an entrance on either side of the gate. The one to the left has a marble plaque on which is inscribed in English: "Bharat Varshiya Brahmo Mandir, 1869", while on a similar marble plaque to the right the same thing is written in Bengali. Inside, the

prayer hall has a stone altar near the eastern walls. Behind the altar is the place for musical instruments. Regular services are held every Sunday evening, accompanied by the singing of bhajans and the holding of spiritual discourses, with devotees perched on the rows of wooden galleries. The hall leads to a verandah, surrounded by railings. A library functions from a portion of the verandah. To the rear of the building are several rooms occupied by those entrusted with the upkeep of the Samaj buildings.

Has a black cat ever looked you in the eye, yawned, and crossed your path, leaving you with a positive sense of menace? Or have you caught sight of a moon shining in the mirror and dashed the offending vision from the wall? Thirteen guests at a dining table have been known to cause frantic hostesses to drag strangers in from the street to fill the yawning gap with a last minute 14th mouth and so ward off bad luck, while Friday the 13th has been immortalised to horror movie heights as a murderous date.

These are superstitions which one reads about and which quite a few school and college going people acquire. People skirt edgily around equally edgy black cats and count heads desperately in an attempt to avoid the dreaded 13, all in the hope that some sort of bad luck will not strike. And they do it not because they have lived with these fears but because they have in many cases, caught them out of the pages of a book. However, the superstitions that are alive and well in India are far more numerous and far more complicated.

Most superstitions have a cause or a reason pointing vaguely at what might have triggered it off in the beginning. There were 13, says the legend, who sat down to dinner at the Last Supper and because of what happened after the supper, all later gatherings of 13 people were condemned. In the case of black cats, black is the colour of the devil and darkness and cats are closely associated with witches, therefore a black cat is doubly unlucky. Very often, thanks to the murkiness of its past, the logic disappears entirely behind the ritual, leaving scholars to scratch their heads and speculate over possible origins.

Timing is vitally important for most Indians. Not getting there on time, which rarely happens, but starting on time, or doing a thing at the right time. Everyone knows that certain months are set aside for weddings while certain others are suitable for shifting house in. But not everyone knows that 90 minutes in every day are *Rahukalam*. Seven-thirty to 9.00 on Monday mornings are doomed, so are 1.30 to 3.00 on Thursday afternoons and 4.30 to 6.00 on Sunday evenings. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are similarly afflicted.

Rahu has no scientific explanation. It is simply a force which can swallow the sun or the moon and cause eclipses and it is purely malevolent. Anything happening in a time governed by Rahu is bound to fail Marriages ending in divorce, journeys crashing into disaster. Therefore telievers in *Rahukalum* have a mnemonic to help them remember which times of the day are inauspicious.

FRIDAY THE

Sometimes, however, it does become difficult to avoid setting out at the wrong time. An interview on Thursday afternoon at 2.00 cannot simply be set aside with a plea of, "Sir, the time was not right!" There is a procedure to help the believer avert Rahu's evil eye, by side-tracking it or changing its focus. Instead of setting out directly for one's destination, one pretends to set out for a neighbour's house. There, one breaks journey briefly and then sets out for one's real goal, sanguine in the belief that Rahu has been misdirected.

Sleep has its own set of superstitions, the best known being the one which says never sleep with your head pointing

And other superstitions. Anjana Basu on why

people believe in them—and don't

to the south. The reasons for this are twofold. In Bengal it is said that Ganesh was lying with his head towards the south when Shiva accidentally cut it off. Theretore, anyone following Ganesh's example is likely to end up with an elephant head.

The other explanation argues that the south is sacred to Yama, the god of death, and it is disrespectful to him to sleep in that position.

Science suggests its own reasons for the prohibition. Apparently, the earth's magnetic field, which runs from north to south pole has been found to interfere significantly with sleep patterns, so that an east-west slumper path is more relaxing in the long run. Traces of this reason could be what lurk in the subconscious of the sleep superstition,

There are innumerable superstitions woven around the cutting of hair and fingernails. These shouldn't be trimmed on a Thursday, the day sacred to Lakshmi, or on the day of the week on which one was born. Neither should they be cut at night, anyone trimming hair at night is destined to marry a *napith* (barber). Loose strands of hair should always be thrown away gummed with a little spit to ward off evil spirits.

All these have no real logic except for the fact that your hair and your fingernails are part of yourself and that it is foolish to throw away a part of yourself on your birthday or on a day dedicated to the goddess of wealth. These also have behind them a long history of role playing in witchcraft. Make friends with your enemy's barber, collect the trimmings from his last visit and throw them into a cauldron of hate. Your enemy is bound to be struck down by the power of your spell. At least, so the rule goes in voodoo or tantra.

Sneezing in the India context is emphatically bad luck if one is setting out on a journey, or setting out to do something important. And not because of threatened influenza. In some wedding rituals, especially loud music is played while the thali is tied around the bride's neck, so that any accidental sneezes can pass unheard. The thing to do if caught by a sneeze on the way out of the house is to count at least up to 13 until the bad moment passes. But, if you are stopped by two sneezes, or by four, or six, then, according to South Indians, there is nothing to worry about because the paired sneezes cross each other out.

And, if you happen to sneeze while abroad, as we all know, someone should exclaim, "Bless you!" or "Gesundheit." Not because you think the sneezer is in for a cold but because a sneeze momentarily forces the soul out of the body and leaves it vulnerable to the depredations of the devil. A quickly mumbled blessing counteracts any chances of demonic possession.

In pre-Revolutionary China, healthy little boy babies were frequently swaddled up to look like unwanted little girls. This, it was felt, would confuse the wicked spirits that were always waiting to pounce on the unfortunate. Indian babies are usually daubed with a black mark of their foreheads after their sponges that symbolically mars their sweetness and so makes them less attractive to the forces of evil. And after a perambulation in the park, many ayahs return to burn chillies over a chula to provide evil spirits with an even more pungent deterrent.

The first joint of the little finger is nipped by mothers and grandmothers after an excessive outpouring of praise, with a similar end in mind, a fleeting little pang of discomfort that mentally at least wards off a worse attack of the evil eye.

New brides are similarly pursued by black *tikkas* and burning chillies. In many Bengali homes, brides are made to

3th

wait on the threshold while a dekchi of milk boils over. This is because the bride is a symbol of Lakshmi and the milk boiling over in her presence signifies the coming of new wealth and prosperity to the house.

Money is always the symbol of Lakshmi and, as a result is surrounded by elaborate precautions. No payments are made in homes after the lamps have been lit or the lights switched on because, with the lighting of the lamps, Lakshmi has come home for the night and cannot be sent out again without ruelty or without losing her affection. Money, therefore, cannot be sent out of he house at night.

The situation could have arisen from *liya*lit times when it was difficult to tell he denomination of coins by a flickering lame, providing both sides of the transaction with an excellent reason for not osing out on the deal through a mistake n counting, but there is no real proof hat was the case. However, the plea still tolds good for a time intermittently affliced with load shedding.

Watch a new strip steel, concrete and dass block going up in the neighourhood. Even as you pause to admire he futuristic designs, the shape straight att of the 21st century, your eye is o be caught by a grimace. You, eye moves to inspect the phenomenon and discovers a pumpkin complete with snarl and glare dangling from the linter. It has been put there to guard the new building from evil nazar from passersby, functioning in the same way as the disfiguring black dot on a baby's temple by lending a touch or incongruity to something that seems to be entirely perfect and desirable.

Eclipses, since they are governed by Rahu, cause floods of superstition. Pregnant women are banned from leaving the house during an eclipse, for fear that the darkness will affect the unborn child. Tulsi is placed wherever food is stored. In some places gongs and conches are sounded to drive away whatever it is that has captured the sun or the moon.

And after the eclipse passes, thousands bathe in the river to cleanse themselves of any lingering traces of darkness. Those who cannot take a ritual bath at home. Scientific authority maintains that radiation levels in the atmosphere rise significantly during eclipses and might actually be strong enough to harm foetuses or taint food; but this theory is unproven. In any case, superstitions around eclipses have been part of the Indian ethos for many thousands of years and will continue to be so for many more.

Calling someone back just as they're leaving the house is part of the cluster of superstitions around the subject of departures. So is announcing Aami aashi as you're going out, instead of saying Aami jachchi which presumably hinges

act that an announcement to slikely to ensure that the person in, while a statement of positive

To ask where a person is going as he or she is leaving is absolutely taboo, since it means that the expedition is destined to end in failure. This particular superstition might have arisen from the days when journeys were literally expeditions, when travellers were at the mercy of bad roads, wild animals and wild men, and when the only mode of transport was by bullock cart, horseback, or by foot. In those days people travelled with their worldly wealth on them and giving away the destination of one's journey was tantamount to inviting hijack from which the superstition probably arose.

There is a course of action designed to counteract the evils of being called back from the threshold or being asked where one is going. This involves coming back into the room, sitting down for a while, then starting out again on what, by evil standards, becomes a totally new journey.

While abroad, it is unlucky to see the new moon through glass. In India, it is believed to be bad luck to look at a four day old moon, because young moons have a misplaced sense of humour. Ganesh, says the story behind the superstition, overstuffed himself with his favourite mishti one evening. So much so that he found it difficult to walk. The crescent moon, rising in the sky, saw him waddling gingerly home, clutching his potbelly, and burst out laughing. At which Ganesh raised his trunk in wrath and declared that anyone who looked at a four day old moon would have bad luck. To this day, there are people who take this edict seriously and look steadfastly at the ground on crescent moon nights.

Most superstitions are designed to ward off that intangible thing called 'bad luck'. They can be taken lightly, or seriously. Chinese housebuilders take it very seriously indeed, spending days working out the favourable aspects of a site so that those who live in the house will be assured of a thousand years of peace and prosperity. Actors never quote Macbeth in the green room because apparently Shakespeare loosed a few genuine spells in the text, And many people never fly on Friday the 13th. People wear rings against it, cast spells against it, bring in astrologers and prayer. Other people simply shrug their shoulders and walk under the nearest ladder to prove a point.

But, whether taken lightly or seriously, superstitions are part of daily life. A kind of measure of the insecurity of the human race.



INNER EYE - Bejon Daruwalla

RIES

March 21-April 20 The domestic scene comes into prominen-

ce this week and matters will have to be worked out. Children, hobbies and creative pursuits get a big boost. Finance promises outlets and opportunities for advancement. Fuse fun and entertainment. Health may cause a few hassles around the weekend. A transfer might necessitate travel.

> **AURUS** April 21 -- May 20

Marriage, legal confrontation, domestic affairs, farming and gardening, chemicals and wholesale dealings are the main characteristics of the week. Romance will be bitter-sweet as moods fluctuate. In finance, those in sales, property and management do well. The throat, back and the heart will cause health hazards. Hectic communications could lead to visitors or a journey.



EMINI

May 21-June 20 The main trends this week are fanning out

to people, places, correspondence, deals, a possible promotion and perks. Those in brokerage do well. Family disputes can be resolved. Expect good results within a fortnight or so. In romance, keep an even keel and stick to facts and figures. Your health could prove slightly troublesome. Trips and longdistance connections are favoured.



ANCER

June 21-- July 20 Contacts, contracts, assignments and commitments characterise the

week. Many of you will be finalising plans for the future. In romance, be a little careful and diplomatic as jealousy and legal issues could make it tough for you. In finance you will be on a solid wicket. A journey will help you meet people who do matter.

July 21---August 21 Health safeguards

and a focus on home and expenses will help you over-come all hurdles. It is time for romance. Contacts, communication and plans for augmenting your income will be necessary. A disciplined life and regular meals will be absolutely essential for good health. Renovation and decoration, shifts or transfers will prove costly.





















IRGO

August 22-Sept 22 The accent is on finance, secret deals. group activity and giving a new

turn and direction to your work and life. By September the full significance of this new direction will be perceived very clearly. Romance will be passionate and rather secretive. Work pressure and unforeseen events could reflect adversely on your health. Collaborations and knowhow entail correspondence and possibly travel. Investments and expenses are foretold.

IBRA

Sept 23-Oct 22 Your work will be

done, so get set to move and be wary of get-richquick schemes and conmen. Favours will be granted and money promised. You will have the charm to attract people. Take care of your back and feet. Home and work pressures could

necessitate travel or bring in visi-

tors. The next 15 days will be

ity.

Dec 21- Jan 19 Problems will be pa-

ceremonies, alliances and legal cases are the other trends. In finance, partnerships, mortgages and insurance have a certain significance. Romance will be intense but complications are not ruled out. Knees, teeth and bones may pose problems. Views and opinions will be exchanged liberally. Changes at

BIRTHDAYS

June 23

Venus conjunction Mars: This conjunction signifies wealth and prosperity. Children, romance, buying and selling are also spot-lighted.

June 24

Moon sextile Saturn: Hard work is the best guarantee to success as Saturn means slow, steady and sure progress. Journey and ceremony, sales and art, machinery and tools are definitely emphasised.

June 25

Moon trine Jupiter: Take care of your health and everything will be line. Marriage is on the cards for the eligible and widowers. Collaborations and alliances those in business are for The employed will be in for a promotion.

Júne 26

Mercury opposition Neptune: This means that you should be practical and choosy. Let your head rule your heart. Health remains suspect. Alliances and trips are also fated. A change of place is more than possible.

June 27

Full moon: The full moon will motivate you on the work front and those in education, organic nisation, research and manage-nisation, research and manage-ment will get the best out of it. Promotions and perks are fore-told. A family get-together is on the cards. You will become a perent or a grandparent.

June 26

Moon conjunction Neptune: Do what comes naturally to you.
Artistes and scientists will grosper as the Moon positioning represents science and himbling the the arts. You could feel must be from time to time.

June 29

Moon confunction Saturn: Nev-er give up. If you feel a bit melan-choty or get short assembly, rest assured, that thinks will change assured, that thinks will change William It will in invalid sensi-la invalid sensi-la invalid sensi-di invalid sesult will specially important for domestic affairs including rites and cere-monies for the dead and living.



Pleasure and profit are the main trends this week. But there is a danger

of accidents, ill-health and clashes. Be practical and businesslike. Finance promises opportunities and progress. The next 27 days are for pilgrimage, renovation, alteration and very definite changes on the domestic frontier.



AGITTARIUS

Nov 23-Dec 20 Loans, funds, longdistance connections,

visitors, collaborations and a are the week's main transfer trends. Finance will involve buying, selling, investing and raising loans. Romance will be excellent in fits and starts as there are too many irons in the fire. Take periodic rest and try to keep to a schedule. The home and the family will have top prior-

APRICORN

ramount. Journeys, home, culminating around September, are foretold.

QUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18 Employment, toans, pets and projects all

hit you at the same time. Your work area will be fully activated. Romance will have its ups and downs. Seek medical advice. Travel only if you have to. Slight disturbances are envisaged at home, so be tactful and understanding.

ISCES

Feb 19-March 20 The tocus is on job,

children, grandchil-dren, hobbies and a strong alliance. Romance will be enough to keep you happy and chirping. Vexations and Irritations could undermine your health. Travel only if necessary and unavoidable. Kids give joy. There is renovation on the agenda and entertainment is foretold.

The Hubble Space telescope (HST) was launched aboard the space shuttle, Discovery, on April 24, 1990 and successfully deployed the next day. Unfortunately, a serious and long-term problem with HST's imaging performance has been identified. Because of this problem, HST will not be able to achieve its full targets for imaging performance in the near future.

Most severely affected are many scientific programmes involving visual and highresolution ultraviolet imaging with the two most crucial intruments: the wide-field and planetary camera (WF/PC) and the faint tion. Less than 10 per cent of the aberration can be removed with the actuators. The figure of the secondary mirror cannot be adjusted, but the mirror can be translated and tilted, as well as moved toward or away from the primary.

Planned course of action: After the final alignment of the optics, the wavefront errors of the optical telescope assembly will be mapped in detail. The second-generation scientific instruments now being developed could thus incorporate compensating optics which, it is currently anticipated, could completely remove the spherical aberration.

A shuttle mission to revisit HST has already been planned for 1993. It is possi-ble, for example, that the WF/PC II cur-rently under development at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory could be fitted with corrective optics and installed by that time. It is likewise anticipated that the space telescope imaging spectrograph and nearinfrared camera and multi-object spectrograph planned for installation in 1995 or 1996 will be able to achieve spectroscopic imaging and infrared performance through the addition of compensating optica. Present scientific capability:

Although the programme has clearly suf-

EW VISTAS

object camera (FOC). The optical problem: Spherical aberration in the optical telescope assembly causes HST's images to fail to meet specifications by a factor of seven; that is, 70 per cent of the light falls within an observed radius of 0.7 arcsecond, rather than the specified radius of 0.1 arcsecond. In simple terms, light from the inner and outer edges of the primary mirror is not

brought to the same focal plane; instead,

The launching of the Hubble Space Telescope on April 24 last year was a significant landmark. However, some problem with its imaging performance has been identified. Amalendu **Bandyopadhyay** on the merits of the project

light from the outer edge comes to focus about 4 cms behind light from the inner edge. This aberration has been demonstrated in a series of images taken with the wide-field and planetary camera over a wide range of focus settings of the secondary mirror.

Tests show that the faulty optical surface is that of the primary mirror.

Although the primary mirror has a set of
24 activators that can apply forces to the
mirror a back side, these are not well hoed for the removal of spherical aberra-



fered a major setback, the Space Telescope Science Institute and NASA are convinced that the prospects for completion of the science programme are highly encouraging. The HST right now has capabilities that vastly exceed ground-based observatories. A valuable subset of the HST's scientific programme can be executed with the telescope even in its present state. The result is that HST still has the potential to produce key discoveries in several areas in the near future, long before the optical flaws are fully corrected. The HST is an extremely versatile observatory in space. Despite the loss of image quality, many of its modes of observing remain largely or even wholly intact. Many observations are possible because the HST, even in its present state, has unique capabilities that cannot be matched either in space or on the ground. With the remaining capabilities of the HST, astronomers will be able to do forefront science 100 per cent of the time even though the initial scientific emphasis must now be different. Thus viable scientific programmes will easily occupy all the time available on HST and will return scientific results of great interest and utility.

Development of the HST: The HST concept has its origins in the writings of Hermann Oberth in the 1920s and Lyman Spitzer in the 1940s. These two scientists suggested that astronomy could benefit greatly from a telescope that viewed the universe from above the Earth's obscuring atmosphere. In the early 1960s, and after NASA's formation in 1958, interest increased in astronomy as a scientific discipline to be pursued from space and momentum grew for the development of a

large orbiting telescope.

In 1971, NASA began in earnest to do feasibility studies of the new telescope, then defined as a 3-m. (10-ft) aperture telescope called the Large Space Telescope. The study results were favourable and preliminary design was initiated in 1972. During this phase, the mirror size was reduced to 2.4 m. (8 ft). The design study was continued until 1977, when Congress gave the approval to build and operate the observatory. By this time, the European Space Agency had become a partner in the project, agreeing to provide the Faint Object Carriera, the solar arrays, and staff support for interactions.

NASA selected two prime contractors to work on this project. A group of scientists was chosen to participate in the design and early operational phase of the project. In the line 1963, as the telescope neared completion, a same samed in honour of the US isstrongers which have been a expended and the line who discovered the line was expended and the line was expended and the line was expended and the line was a line was a line was to expended and postponed was line line was expended. Launching was line line was expended and postponed

several times into the late 1980s with telescope development problems and delays in the Shuttle programme. Launching of the HST made possible the

Launching of the HST made possible the biggest single advance in cosmology since Galileo turned his lenses to the sky three centuries ago. The multi-billion dollar project, which has battled with physical and financial adversities for almost 20 years, aims towards furnishing answers to some of the most fundamental questions of existence: When did everything begin? How fast is everything changing and how long

will anything survive?

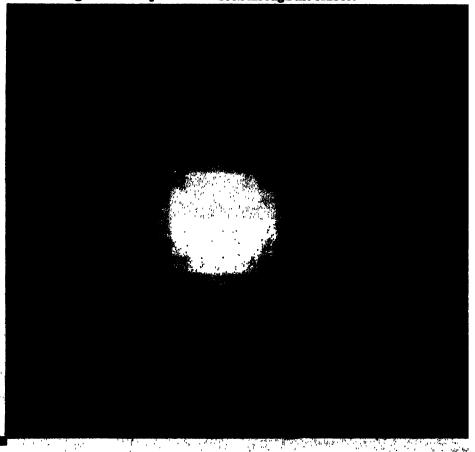
Orbiting some 630 kms above the Earth, the HST is an extremely sensitive light catcher, ready for the arrival of infinitesimal bits of visible, infrared and ultraviolet energy that have travelled billions of years through space. The HST is orbiting the earth every 90 minutes. The light detected today originated so long ago and so far away that its arrival is greeted with curious anticipation. This welcome messenger can reveal to us what the universe is like, how it began and how it changes.

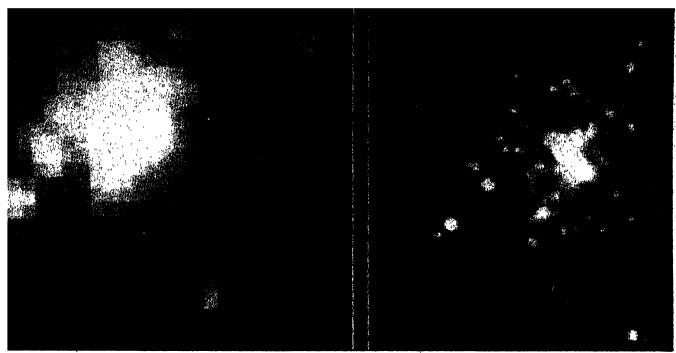
The jewel of the telescope, the 8-ft primary mirror, is deep inside the protective case. The mirror is a marvel of technology, large but light weight, its pure aluminium reflecting surface thinly coated

with transparent magnesium fluoride. Light entering the telescope strikes the primary mirror, is reflected forward to the secondary mirror where it is reflected again, returning down-the telescope and through a hole in the primary mirror to the focal plane, where the image forms. Here, detectors record iamges or analyse the incoming ultraviolet, visible or infrared light. These focal plane instruments are crucial to the space observatory.

Benefits already received: Astronomers are pointing the HST at bright objects in our cosmic neighbourhood and when aimed at such targets even the flawed Hubble is unbeatable. A longanticipated target for the Hubble was the planet, Pluto, and its larger satellite, Charon. The members of the Faint Object Camera science team did not disappoint. They made Pluto the first solar system object to be observed by the HST. Pluto is really difficult to study from earth as it is so small and distant. Smaller than earth's moon and located far across the solar system, Pluto never appears more than a faint point of light to ground-based observers. And Pluto is the only planet in the solar system that has not yet been visited by a spacecraft. Pluto and Charon have never appeared truly distinct on a photograph until they were photographed with the

As seen from Earth through a 200-in. telescope at Mount Palamore, USA, Pluto's clearer image of both objects when seen through the Hubble





As seen from the Earth, through a 236-in. telescope in the USSR, the core of the star cluster 30 Doradus in the Tarantula nebula, is a confusing blur that can be barely distinguished and (right) at least 60 stars are distinctly visible in the core through the Hubble's image

Faint Object Camera of the HST, which clearly split the two objects. Earth-based astronomers discovered Pluto's moon, Charon, as a bump on the dwarf planet's side. The Hubble has now made a far clearer image of both the objects.

The first image taken of Saturn showed | wanted to observe it through the pon Charon appears a a bump on the dwarf planet's side and (right) a far

man the said of th

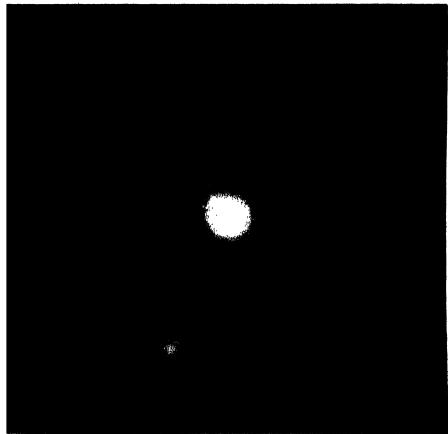
details never before captured on groundbased photographs. In late September 1990, a large white spot appeared on Saturn's surface. This was the first largescale atmospheric eruption on the planet in the past 60 years, and astronomers wanted to observe it through the sharp eye of the Hubble. They got the opportunity in early November. The HST images allowed researchers to study the motions and vertical growth of the cloud in unprecedented detail, a key step towards understanding what triggers these atmospheric events.

The closest galaxy to the Milky Way—the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)—also held several good targets for the HST. And two of the more successful observations were of objects in the LMC: Supernova 1987A and the R136 star Cluster. The Faint Object Camera captured the elliptical ring that surrounds Supernova 1987A to a resolution of 0.1 arcsecond—far better than ground-based telescopes can do.

On December 13, 1990, Mars posed for the Hubble telescope when it was 85 million kms from Earth. It was a stunning image captured by the wide-field and planetary camera of the HST.

And so the Hubble Space Telescope is alive and though not exactly well, certainly not paralysed. Compared to the huge investments already made in the HST, the effort involved in correcting the optical aberrations is small. Likewise, the delay until delivery of WF/PC II is short compared to planned 15-year duration of the project. Keeping this perspective in mind, it is important to keep our eyes on the future and work diligently to realise the full potential of the space observatory which is still a fully visible goal. We are to keep in mind that the Hubble can still take pictures that improve our understanding of the universe and some of them are also beautiful.

The author is the former director of Positional Astronomy Centre, government of India, and is currently the senior scientist, research division, Birla Planetarium.



Midlagraphia: Country, MAIA



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alcutta's charm probably lies in the fact that it never ceases to inspire. Stooping with age, steeped in ignominy, burdened with its myriad problems that will always cling like fleas to a mangy mongrel, Calcutta exudes a warmth in its chiarascuro that is strangely inviting, especially for the artist.

From the time of Thomas Daniell in the 18th century, followed by countless others, the "port city" has been portrayed in an array of moods. The medium, however, has mostly been restricted to painting, or sketches, it is only recently





'Cloth and Silk Merchants', a lithograph by Mrs Belnos, 1832

membrance

that attempts have been made in slightly more intricate and challenging dimensions. A group of artisans have now launched an ambitious plan to recreate Calcutta of the 18th and early 19th centuries in terracotta, or burnt clay.

The intricacies of working with a medium like clay speaks volumes for the effort behind

Prabhas Sen, honorary chief advisor of the unit, a team comprising nearly 25 persons have toiled untiringly for months to make the exhibition a success. The team takes refuge behind a mask of anonymity, no one is identified ("because we all contribute equally, and work just as hard") and the idea, conceived in July

Next fortnight, Terra Cottal will hold its first theme-based exhibition,

Calcutta Nostalgia, covering mainly the period 1770-1850. A preview

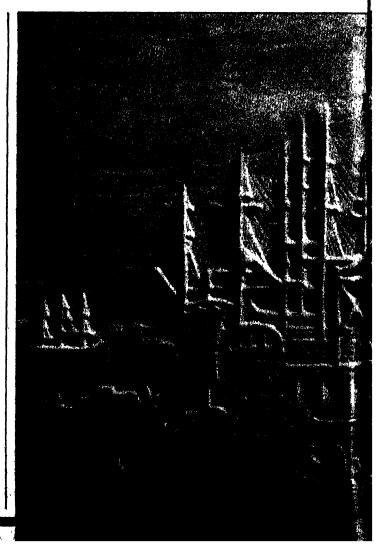
Photographs: Kishor Roy Chowdhury

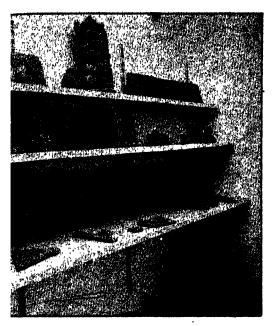
the venture, not to mention their desire to be as true to the original works of Daniell, Charles D'Oyly and Mrs Belmos which form the basis for the intricate pictorial relief murals and plaques. From July 5 to 21, Terra Cöttal (at 158/2A Prince Anwar Shah Road) will hold its first theme-based exhibition, Calcutta Nostalgia, covering, primarily, the period between 1770 and 1850.

Under the direction of artist

1990, is said to be the brainchild of all those involved.

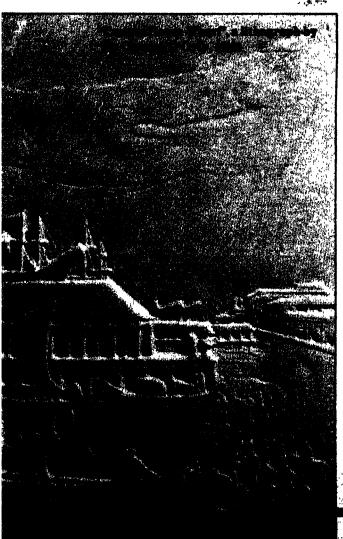
A peek into the gallery that is being prepared for the project is enlightening. Viewing the intricate murals, based on lithographs and maps, it is difficult to imagine that here is the culmination of specially prepared and graded common clay. A 5 ft x 5 ft pictorial relief is strikingly similar to Mrs Belnos' work of 1832 depicting traders in the city. Even more







ast



intricate is the relief map of Calcutta, dated as far back as 1784, which is done to scale. The third mural comprises 15 "tiles", each measuring a square foot and depicting a city landmark. These places of interest, such as the High Court, the Planetarium, the Victoria Memorial, the GPO and others, have been simplified to the point of immediate recognition, rather than being authentic depictions.

The pictorial relief plaques are of two kinds: high relief and engravings. Four types of either category will be on display, delightfully true to the original lithographs depicting dancing girls, ports or "Cheringhee" as it was in 1792.

The sculptures, too, are tempting, especially the "Baboo series" of Ganesh—complete with *dhoti* and palm fan. Each is varied in mood and posture, all most endearing. Not to be outdone, there is the human "Baboo", semi-realisting the Ganesh figures from a lifelike 5 ft 6 in. The baboo, we are told, was influenced by the Kalishat par form.

Yet another section of the gallery anveils sculptural compositions in four categoriestransportation (the palls, the elephant, the elaborately designed ship); professions (such as the wine-server and the fan-puller); the Indian elite (the Maharaja in regal splendour) and English traders and administrators.

The only common factor seems to be the colour of burnt clay, but even there, one can decipher variety. For instance, the baboo's head is lighter in shade than his torso, the Ganesh's kurta is darker than his trunk. The master touches are there—for the experienced eye.

The effort behind the finer details is only to overreach the mundane aspect of clay. Terracotta, after all, is nothing new; it is a folk art that is still alive in Bengal villages. steeped in tradition that is thousands of years old. To transcend this, Terra Cottal insists of technical superiority and stakes claim to an "aesthetic monitoring system". Phased-out motifs are never repeated, to avoid stagnation. Whatever may be the secret of their success, the exhibition will stand witness to their painstaking diligence, and bear, one hopes, testimony to the standards they have set themselves.

Sudipta Bhattachariee

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

A film by Vimal Kumar, starring Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Shakti Kapoor and Kader Khan. The music is by Rajesh Roshan.

• Kurbaan: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266)—4 ehows.

Sunil Dutt, Salman Khan, Kabir Bedi, Rohini Hattangady, Gulahan

principal attractions in this film, directed by Deepak Bahry. The music is by Anand Millind.

• Main Pyansi Hoon (A): New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147)—4 shows.

The film stars Jayarekha, Jayalalithe and Jaydevan.

• Meena Bazar (A): Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273),

Kalika (Sadananda Road; 758141)—4 shows.

Directed by P. Chandra Kumar and with music by Nareah Sharma, the film stars Rupa Ganguly, Poonam Das Gupta, Om Puri, Shakti Kapoor and debutant Vikram Razdan.

• 100 Days: Elite (S.N. Banerjee Road; 241383), Purnasree (Raja Raj Kissen Street; 554033), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 464440).

Jackie Shroff, Madhuri Dixit, Javed Jaffrey and Laxmikant Berde comprise the main cast of this film, directed by Partho Ghosh. The music is by Raam Laxman.

• Pyar Hua Chori Chori: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917), Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Indira (Indra Roy Road; 751757), Ragini (Be-liaghata Main Road; 363264).

Mithun Chakraborty and de-butante Gauthami are the lead pair in this film. Others co-starring are Shikha Swaroop, Anupam Kher, Shafi Inamdar, Shubha Khote and Shakti Kapoor. The film is directed by K. Bapaiah and the music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Beder Meye Josna: Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 359561), Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)-1. 4. 7.

One of the biggest hits in recent times, this Bangladesh production stars Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh. Others co-starring are Saifuddin. Dildar, Nasir Khan, Abbas, Soma, Anamika, Subhendu, Amarnath and Bulbul. The film is directed by Matiyur Releman Panu and the music is by Abu Taher.

• Neelimaye Neel: Prachi (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 271282)—2, 5, 7.45, Darpana (Bidhan Sarani; 558060), Purna (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474567)-2.30, 5.30, 8.15.

Directed by Biresh Chatterjee and with music by Swapan Chakra-horty, the chief attractions of this film are Tapus Paul, Indrani Hal-der, Sreela Majurader, Subhendu Chatterjee, Anamika Saha and Master Rints.

 Path O Prashed: Minar (Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoli (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 753462), Chhabighar (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 352740)—3, 5.45, 8.30.

A Tarun Majandar film, starring Uppil Dutt, Sandhya Roy, Soumit-ra Chatterjee, Annp Kamat, Ayan Baserice, Kheyali Dastider, Blue Calcubetty, Alche Grago



ly, Ruma Guhathakurta, Kalyani Mondal, Dilip Roy, Arun Banerjee, Satya Bandopadhyay and Master Rintu. The music is by V. Balsara.

NEW RELEASES

Hindi Films

• Prem Qaidi: Metro (Chowringhee Road; 280141), Gern (AJC Bose Road; 249828), Jagat (APC Road; 365108), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street; 552270), Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 758141), Malancha (Regent Park).

Harish and Karishma are the lead pair in this film, directed by K. Muralı Mohana Rao. The music is by Ananu Milind.

• Ramgarh Ke Sholay: Roxy

(Chowringhee Place; 284138), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 244822), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 484808), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Bina (Bidhan Saram; 311522).

Amjad Khan is the main attraction in this film, directed by Ant Dewani.

Special Events

23 June: 3 pm & 6.30 pm

Padatik Repertory presents the Hindi play, Sakharam Binder, based on the man-woman relationship and with Kulbhushan Kharbanda in the lead. Written and directed by Vijay Tendulkar and Shyamanand Jalan, respectively. others in the cast are Chetna Jalan, Shakil Khan, Pradip Roy and Baishakhi Marjit.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road, 284302).

23 June onwards

An exhibition of oil and acrylic paintings by Shyamal Mukherjee, Anjan Dobey, Dipti Chakrabarti and Gopinath Das. Also, Dhiraj Choudhury's recent works in oil will also be on display. The exhibition will continue till July 14.

At Gallery BF 14 (BF-14, Sec-

tor 1, Salt Lake). 23-27 June: 3 pm - 8 pm

An exhibition of paintings, organised by the West Bengal Artist Federation, in the North Gallery. 23-27 June: 4 pm - 8 pm

An exhibition of drawings, paintings and graphics by Suchismita Ghatak and Dibyendu Bhadra in the New South Gallery.

24 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm

A week-long exhibition of paintings by the students of Sunday Painters in the South Gallery.

 A week-long exhibition of paintings by the students of Chitrangan m the New Gallery.

25 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm

A week-long exhibition of paintings by Prabal Pramanik in the West Gallery.

28 June onwards: 3 pm - 8 pm

A week-long exhibition of paintings and sculptures, organised by Sadarsha, in the North Gallery.

At Academy of Fine Arts (Cathedral Road; 284302).

27 June: 6 pm

Krishnakalı presents a cultural programme, featuring Suchitra Mitra, Purabi Dutta, Aparna Sen, Tulsi Roy and Shyamal Saha.

At Sisir Mancha (1 AJC Bose Road).

Planes

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

International

Calcutta-Bombay-London-New York: Dep. (2): Al-101 at 0230. Bombay-Calcutta-Bangkok-Tokyo: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1915; Dep. (5): Al-306 at 2020.

To kyo-Bangko k-Calcutta-Bombay: Arr. (6): Al-309 at 1910; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 2025. London-Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (7): Al-132/1328 at 1230.

Moscow-Sharjah-Calcutta: Arr (4): SU-537 at 1525.

Calcutta-Sharjah-Moscow: Dep. (4): SU-538 at 1725. Moscow-Tashkent-Karachi-

Calcutta-Hanol: Arr. (2): SU-541 at 0640; Dep. (2): SU-541 at 0750. Hanol-Calcutta-Karachi-Tashkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-542 at 1615; Dep. (2): SU-542 at

Amman-Calcutts: Arr. (4): RJ-184 at 0645.

Calcutta-Amman: Dep. (5): RJ-

H85 at 0530.
+ Bucharest-Abu Dhabl-Celoutte-Bengtok: Arr. (1): RO-063 at 1045; Dep. (1): RO-063 at 1200.

+ Bangkok-Calcutta-Abu Dhabi-Bucharest: Arr. (1): RO-064 at 1945; Dep. (1): RO-064 at 2100. Calcutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): SQ-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-420 at 1310.

Singapore-Calcutta: Arr. (2): 60-416 at 1025 and Arr. (4): SQ-420 at

Calcutta-Bangkok: Dep. (2, 4, 7): IC-731 at 0900; Dep. (1, 3, 6): TG-314 at 1355.

Bengkok-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 4, 7): IC-732 at 1500; Arr. (1, 3, 6): TG-313 at 1240.

Calcutta-Kathmandu: Dep. (2, 4,

6, 7); IC-747 at 1600; Dep. (1, 5): RA-214 at 1455.

Kathmandu-Calcutta: Arr (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5): RA-213 at 1355.

Calcutta-Dhaka: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): Carcutta-Drama: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4). 16-723 at 1340, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): BG-092 at 1305, Dep. (7): BG-096 at 1820, Dep. (5, 6): BG-096 at 1935, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4): BG-098 at

Dheke-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-724 at 1600, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): BG-091 at 1225, Arr. (7): BG-095 at 1710, Arr. (5, 6): BG-095 at 1855, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4): BG-097 at 1940.

Calcutta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5): BG-698 at 0905.

Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr (2, 5): BG-697 at 0825.

Calcutta-Paro: Dep. (2). KB-106 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0800.

Domestic

Air-India Calcutta-Bombay: Dep (2) Al-101 at 0230.

Delhi-Calcutta: Arr. (1): Al-1328 at 1230.

Indian Airlines

Calcutta-Delhi: Dep. (daily). IC-263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750; Arr. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-264 at 2235.

Calcutta-Bombay: Dep. (daily): IC-176 at 0900 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr. (daily): IC-274 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0800

Calcutta-Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-765 at 1700; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-766 at 2210, Arr. (6): IC-268 at 2205

Calcutta-Bangalore: Dep. (1, 2, 4,

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263390, 264433, 262415, 262548, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569841, 267007 and 204433.

6, 7): IC-771 at 0620; Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6, 7): IC-772 at 1200. Calcutta-Ranchi-Patria-

Lucknow-Delhi: Dep (daily): IC-410 at 0615.

Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr. (daily): IC-409 at

Calcutta-Guwahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-729 at 0730; Arr. (daily): IC-230

Ex-Servicemen's Coach Service (Airlines House to Calcutta Airport): Departures from Airlines House at 4.30 am, 5.30 am, 7.15 am, 9.30 am, 11.30 am, 2.15 pm. 3.15 pm and 5.45 pm. Departures from Calcutta Airport depends upon the arrival of the flights.

at 1630, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-730 at

Calcutta-Agartala: Dep. (daily): alcutta-Vishakapatnam-IC-741 at 0835 and IC-743 at 1330 Madras: Dep. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at Arr. (daily): IC-742 at 1055 and IC 1000.

744 at 1550. Calcutta-Port Blair: Dep. (2, 4 IC-285 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6 286 at 1000.

Calcutta-Port Blair-Car M): Dep. (1): IC-287 at 0530 IC-288 at 1220. Calcutta: Dep. (2, ±13 at 130, Dep. (3, 5, at 1525, 0600; Arr. (2, 4) 155. Arr. (3, 5, 7): IC-2

Calcutta-Bagdogra: Dep. (1 °C-221 at 1300, Dep. (2, 3, 4, 2, 7): IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (1): IC-222 at 1520, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 222 at 1320 at 1320.

at 1320.
Calcutta-Dibrugarh: p. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-201 at 14, Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-202 (phal: Dep. Calcutta-Silcha; 0; Arr. (daily): IC-255 at IC-256 at 1050 at Dimapur-Calcutta-1, 3, 5, 7): IC-257 at 1130; Ar

at 1130; Ar

1510. ubaneswar-Nagpur-Calcuttr Dep. (3, 5, 6): IC-269 Hyderor. (3, 5, 6): IC-270 at at 16'

2042 Bhubaneswar: Dep. (1, Ce! IC-269 at 1650; Arr. (1, 2, 21C-270 at 1910.

utta-Hyderabad: Dep. (1, 2,): IC-277 at 1720; Arr. (1, 2, 4, IC-278 at 2210.

Madras-Vishakapatnam-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at

Vayudoot m

Calcutta-Agartale-Kallachahar: Dep. (2, 4): PF-729 at 0710; Arr. (2, 4): PF-730 at 1120.

Calcutta-Shillong-Agartala-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6): PF-701 at 0710, Dep. (7): PF-701 at 1210;

.tta-Bengkok-Calcutta and Calcutta-Abu Dhabi-Calcutta

Arr (1 3 5 6) PF 702 at 1120 Arr (7) PF 702 at 1620 Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar Dep (7) PF 729A at 0710 Arr (7) PF 730A at 1140

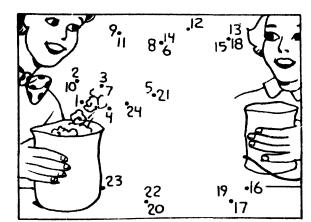
Calcutta-Jamshedpur Dep (1 2 3 4 5 6) PF 717 at 0630 Dep (2 4 6) PF 717A at 1330 Arr (1 2 3 4 5 6) PF 718A at 1525

Calcutta-Agartaia-Aizawi Dep (2 4 6 7) PF 705 at 0855 Arr (2 4 6 7) PF 706 at 1300 Calcutta-Agartaia-Aizawi-Calcutta Dep (1 3 5) PF 705A 1150 PF-708 at 1150

at 1250 Arr (1 3 5) PF-706A at 1635

Depart Up 2311	ture Time 19-00	EASTERN RAILWAY	' Arri	ival			COLUMN PACTERN		
, ,				IVAI	Dept	artur e	SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY	Arri	ive!
2311	10-00	<u>Howrah</u>	Time	Dn			RAILWAY		
3005	19-20	Delhi-Kaika Meil Amritsar Mail	8-30 8-05	2312 3006	Up	Time	<u>Howrah</u>	Time	Dn
3003 2381	20-00 9-15	Bombay Mail via Allahabad Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	13-15 18-00	3004 2382	6003 8002	20-40	Madras Mail Bombey Mail via Nagpur	7-00 8-00	6004 8001
2301	9-10	press via Gaya-Varanası	10-00	2302	2860	19 20 12-35	Gitanjali (Bombay) Express	15 05	2859
i		Dep-Tues Thurs & Sat			8034	20-20	Ahmedabad Express	5-05	8033
ļ		Arr-Wed Fri & Sun			8030	11-30	Bombey Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
2303	9 -15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex- press via Patna	18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex- press	11 50	2842
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1		Sun			8007	22-00	Puri Exprese Via Cuttack	5-30	8008
2373	23-00	Himgiri (Jammu-Tawi) Ex- press Tri-Wkly	11-10	2374	8409	19-35	Jagannath (Purl) Express Via Naraj	7-45	8410
2547	13-15	Dep—Tues Fri & Sat Arr—Tues Wed & Sat Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex- press Tirupati Expra	21 20 4-15	2822 8080
E 741	10-10	press	4-10	£340	8079 8045	23 20 11 10	East Coast (Hyderabad) Ex-	14-55	8046
		Dep-Mon & Thurs ArrThurs & Mon			8017	16-45	press Purulia Express	11-20	8018
3009	20-05	Doon Express via Grand Chord	7-20	3010			Dep—Except Saturday Arr—Except Sunday		****
3007	9-45	Udayan Abha Toofan Ex- press via Main Line	18-15	3008	2602	22-35	Guwahati - Howrah - Trivan- drum Central Express	22-15	_
349	13-05 20-45	Amritear Express	15-45	3050	1	44.40	Monday only Trivandrum Central - Howrah	40 AE	0001
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2557	6-00	Kanchenjunga Express	20-50	2558	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
5659 3317	17 35	Kemrup (Guwahati) Express	6-30	5660			Thursday only		
	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3318	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	
3029 3035	17- 1 5 18-26	Coaffield Express	10-30	3030			Terminus Weekly Express		
3031	21-00	Asansoi Express Danapur Express	8-45	3036 3032			(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam)		
3025	23-00	North Bihar Express	6-35 11-10	3032 3026	2652	22-35	Saturday only Cochin Harbour Terminus	13-45	2651
		DepWednesday ArrFriday	11-10	3020	2002	22-35	Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)	13-43	2051
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkly Express Dep-Tues Thurs & Sat	6-00	3072			Dep—Fri & Sun Arr—Tues & Fri		
3015	9-55	Arr-Mon Thurs & Sat Santiniketan Express	48.40	0010	2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City	22-15	
2159	15-25	Chambai (Gwallor) Express Dep-Sat & Sun	15-40 7-30	3016 2160			Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack) Wednesday only		
1	40.00	ArrTues & Wed			! —	14-10	Bangelore City-Guwahati	13-45	2673
1171	15-25	Shipra (Indore) Express Dep—Tues & Wed Arr—Sat & Sun	7-30	1172			Weekly Express (via Howrah & Cuttack)		
3327	15-25	Shaktipunj (Chopan) Express Dep & ArrMon & Fri	7-30	3328	2610	22-35	Monday only Patne-Cochin Harbour Ter- minus Weekly Express (via	22-15	_
2181	15-25	Chambal (Agra Cantt.) Express Arr & Dep—Thursday	7-30	2182			Howrah) Thursday only		
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday Sealdah	10-40	5050	_	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patna Weekly Express (via Howrah) Wednesday only	13-45	2609
3143	19-00	Darjeeling Mail	D.AE	3144	1				
3153	21-40	Gour Express	8-45 6-15	3154	1				
3151	11-20	Jammu-Tawi Express	16-30	3154 3152			round the clock information of		
3133	20-45	Mughai Sarai Express, via SBG Loop	12-50	3134	trains,	please di per inform	ial 203545-54 for in-coming train nation. For information about	is, 203539 reservatio	5-44 for one on
3103	18 20	Bhagirathi (Laigdle) Express	10-25	3104			uth Eastern Rallways trains, die		
5185	12-40	Chhapra Express Tri-weekly Dep & Arr-Wed Fri & Sun	4-30	5186		9 pm on ed holida	weekdays and 9 am to 2 pm (ys)	ou saudi	ys and

JUNIOR WHIRL D Hal Kaufman



STAND BY! "Hey, save some for me," says Sis, standing by, above. Draw lines from dot to dot to complete scene.

 WAY FARE! Draw a straight line approximately 2 inches north, veer southwest 11/2 inches, turn due east 1 inch Resulting figure will reveal number of cardinal points on a compass.

THOI S. TOWERA

_CITY 6_CITY 2_CITY 7_CITY 3_CITY 8_CITY 4_CITY 9_CITY 5_CITY10_CITY

CITY-LIMIT WORD FIX

Look for these "cities" in a dictionary, but not in an atlas Ex: No. 1 is CAPACITY Go on

- 1. Full-house city.
- 2. Honesty city.
- 3. Stick-to-it city
- 4. Media hype city.
- 5. Speed rate city.
 6. Hard-to-get city.
 7. Smartsville city.
- 8. Double-deal city.
- 9. Gluttonous city. 10. Chutzpah city.

Choices (a) velocity, (b) audacity, (c) sagacity, (d) publicity, (e) veracity, (i) duplicity, (g) scarcity, (h) voracity, (i) capacity, (j) tenacity

1-4, 2-6, 3-4, 4-4, 5-8, 6-9, 7-c, 8-1,

. TAIL SPINI Katz's Pet Shop has 33 kittens. There are five long-tailed and three short-tailed mates, 15 long-tailed and 10 short-tailed females. In addition, there's the Katz family kitten, a female Manx, with no tail at all.

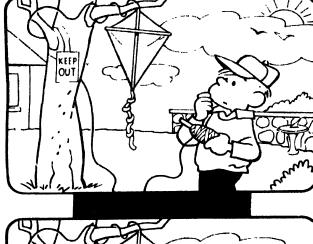
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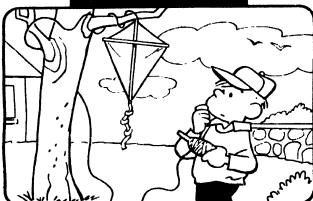
Question: How many males and females in the lot? Answer in 1 min.

Eignt males, twenty-six remaies



HOCUS-FOCUS

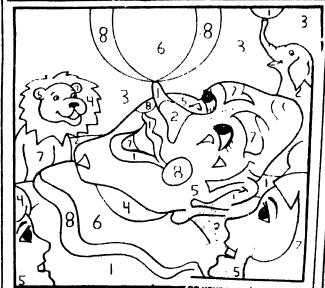




CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 sign is missing 2 Tree frunk is skimmer 3 Kite tail is shorter 4 Well is shorter 5 Und 2 Sundisk in missing

FUNSPOT



on your nose is not easy. ON THE NOSE! Alakazam, balancing 3-Yellow. 4-Lt. brown. Add these colors: 1—Red. 2—Lt.jwn. 8—Dk. green. 5—Flesh tones. 6—Lt. green. 7—

NDER

SCORE 10 points for usir*** letters in the word belo two complete words RAWBON

%h for all

THEN score 2 pc or more words of four found among \$7 50 points.

Try to score equesod

bred ,ew



OUIZ - Nell O'Brien

Mho invented the American national game of baseball? Ans: Abner Doubleday," writes Samir Shah, Calcutta 13.

This story was passed down as the gospel truth by farnous US sportcaster Bill Stern, and though it has absolutely no basis in fact, it is irresistible:

"Abraham Lincoln is lying near death following the shooting at Ford's Theatre. With his closest advisers gathered around him, he calls over Major General Abner Doubleday. 'Abner' whispers Lincoln, 'don't... let... baseball... die.' And with those final words, Lin-

coln goes down swinging. As writer Art Hill had it, if that story is true, Doubleday would have probably replied, "What's baseball?" for Doubleday is not the man who invented baseball but rather the man whom baseball invented. He was a remarkable man, to be sure, a West Point graduate who sighted the first gun fired at Fort Sumter. He died in 1893 before anyone got around to asking him if he was, indeed, the inventor of baseball. He certainly made no such claim.

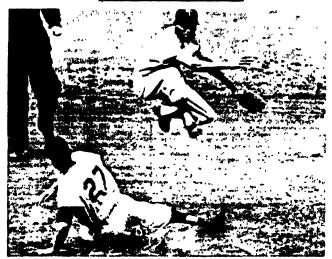
The myth about his youthful inventiveness in Cooperstown, New York, wasn't



11th Question: Which British ceremony is known as the 'Silent Change'? (Arun Goswami, 66 West Rabindra Nagar, Calcutta 700065)

Ans: Handing over ceremony of the office of the Lord of Mayor of the city of London.

No word is spoken except the declaration.



actually concocted until 1907, when Albert Spalding formed a commission to discover the game's true origins. The basis for the group's finding was, in the words of the official report, a circumstantial statement by a "reputable gentleman". The reputable gentleman, an octogenarian mining en-

gineer named Abner Graves, said that when he was a lad in Cooperstown in 1839, Abner Doubleday once drew a diagram of a diamond for a game of "Town-Ball" in a farmer's pasture. Commission chairman Mills, a civil war veteran, who happened to have served under Doubleday, wrote: "I can well under-

stand how the orderly mind of the embryo West Pointer would devise a scheme for limiting the contestants on each side and allotting them to field positions, each with a certain amount of territory."

Not exactly an iron-clad case, especially given the fact that Doubleday was actually attending West Point at the time he was supposed to be inventing baseball.

As for the true origins of the baseball, there are two schools of thought as there are for the origins of life itself: creation versus evolution. Many scholars maintain that a bank clerk and volunteer fireman named Alexander Jay Cartwright invented baseball. Spalding himself referred to Henry Chadwick, the game's first great sport-swriter, as "the father of baseball". But Chadwick knew the game was derived from cricket and rounders. As early as 1796, Jane Austen mentioned a game of baseball in Northanger Abbey, and this anonymous poem appeared in A Little Pretty Pocket-Book in 1744: B is for Base-ball The ball once struck off Away flies the boy To the next destined post And then home with joy.

QUESTIONS

1) Which was the targest ballot paper in the 1991 general elections? Galcutta

2) Which Indian film was nominated for the Oscar tris year (1991)? (Saurav Mitra Calcutte 29) Mitra Calcutte 29) Bank in the world in terms of seets? (Subrata Bhattacherya and Shavik

> What is alpha rhythm? Mazoomdear:

e, Hezerbegh 15) t are the 'Rezzies'?

umder, Celculte

Boral 5)

6) Who are greenmailers?
(Subrata Haidar, Tribeni 3)

7) In which film does
James Bond play a golf
match with the villain? (J.
Omprakesh Reo, Jharsuguda 2)

8) Who recently commented, "I can't think of
any other democracy that
imposes this kind of carisorship"? (Sournyadip
Chowdhury, Calcutta 29)

9) What is the difference
between a 'philanthropist'?
(Raimest Ali, Calcutta 14)

18) What is a box called
which is designed to maintain a congrant internal

Branch Say

temperature by the use of thermostat? (Dkrubani Chakraborty, Durgapur 6)

ANSWERS

5) Goldfinger, 5) Holero Joffe, commenting on the presence of two federal bureaucrate who had to observe every show taken for The City of Joy.

9) Philanthropist—one who loves mankind; psilanthropist—one who believes that Christ was an ordinary mortal ordinary mortal.

then threaten to take control unless their holdings are bought off at a higher

iude iu s combanà suq. buy substantial share hold-6) Corporate raiders who rny adults. laxed state in normal, healsecond; considered a reeight to 13 cycles per the cerebral cortex running mont from current from starred Bo Derek. Ghosts Can't Do It which Yd now saw ii 1894 BiriT formances of the year. the worst picture and per-Raspberry Awards given to The Annual Golden Japan. 2) Anjali (Tamil). 3) Dai Ichikangyo Bank of constituency (105 candi-dates were in the fray).

I) That of the East Delhi

CONICS

















ARCHIE



















MOOSE MILLER By Bob Weber











THE LOCKHORNS

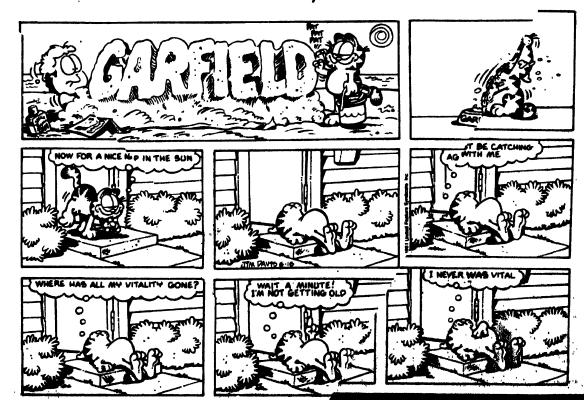








GARFIELD By Jim Davis



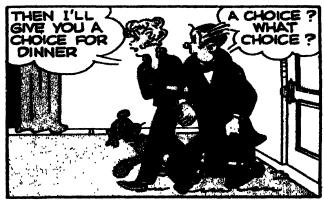
THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



















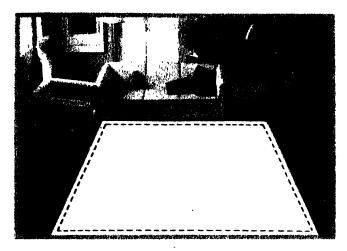
CANDID CAMERA



While campaigning for the Baroda Lok Sabha seat, **Deepika** probably gave her party the vibes, 'Don't worry, BJP', even though people generally thought that she and politics were strange bedfellows. But, mid-campaign, she decided that the *mandap* was preferable to the *kursi*. So, off she flew **Bombay** to put Hemant Topiwala's ring on her finger—and the

ODAY, GIVE EACH OF THESE ROOMS A MATCHING MARBLE FLOOR.

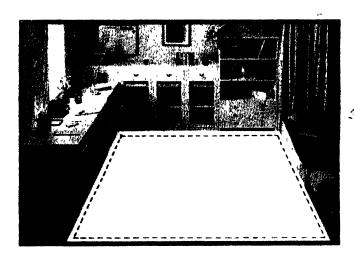


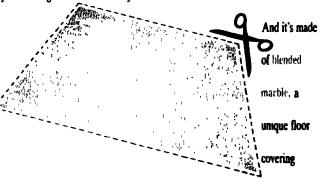


CUT OUT THESE THREE FLOORS, MATCH THEM TO THE ROOMS ON THE LEFT, AND STICK THEM WHERE THEY LOOK BEST.

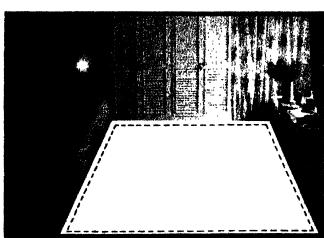
Yes, with Carara, laying down a marble floor in your home is as simple as sticking on the floors in this ad! It's so simple. Just get Carara laid over

your existing floor. It'll take only a few hours. No mess, no inconvenience.



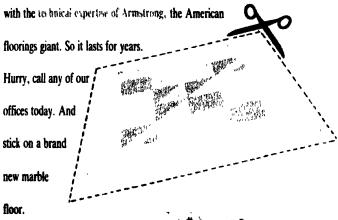


containing fine granulated marble. It comes in two exquisite designs and a range of original shades. What's more, Carara is scratch-resistant. After all, it's created



trademark Armstrong, under licence.

was World Industries permit INARCO Ltd, the use of the INARCO (Mices: Bombey: 12-A. 'Advent', Gen. Bhosale Marg, Bombay 400 021, Ph. 2022621, 2022213. * Dollin: Ph. 3712049, 3712253, 3324418 * Calcutta Ph. 444990, 432768 * Madrae: Ph. 475191, 476596, 479186.





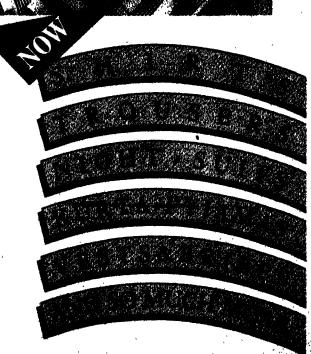
he perfection of Vivaldi Readymades



Now Bombay Dyeing has more readymade perfection up its sleeve. From readymade trousers to readymade night-suits, you'll get the same meticulous attention to quality that you've already discovered in Vivaldi Shirts.

Beginning with the selection of the yarn and fabric, every detail is crafted with the finest workmanship. The buttons, the zips, the elastic, the thread... all carefully chosen. The seams are neatly finished, the pockets perfectly fitted. You won't find a thing out of place in Vivaldi readymades. What you will find is perfection all the way.

The Vivaldi range of readymades. Because there's more to a professional's day than just business!





BOMBAY DYEING 🖽

QUALITY RUNS RIGHT THROUGH

An Actor for All Seasons

Amitabh Bachchan is basically an actor for all seasons. His versatility cannot be questioned. He has played with conviction a poet-lover in Kabhie Kabhi, an aggressive porter in Coolie, a middle class husband in Do Anjane, the exploited citizen in Aakhree Raasta, the studious professor in Kasme Vaade, the deprived son in Trishul, the mine labourer in Kala Patthar, the sentimental brother in Satte Pe Satta and the comical Anthony in Amar Akbar Anthony, to mention only some random examples.

The tremendous impact of his acting was felt in Saudagar and Alaap even tions made by a film while assessing a performance. Amitabh's performance in Agneepath was stupendous whatever the gross collections of the film.

And Mithun was not a megaartiste in his first film, Mrigayaa, but merely a fresher. Lalit Bhatt. Hooghly

■ Is Amitabh an actor? Did someone actually raise that question? A reader says that he even used his manipulative skills to get the national award.

In that case, how did he fail to get the ban on Jhooma chooma de de lifted from AIR and Doordarshan?

Would those who refuse to acknowledge his talent because Agneepath was a

that you had to use the extract from Shobha De's book, Starry Nights (May 26)?

The illustrations of naked women and the pornographic material accompanying them indicates that you have run out of ideas. Such idiotic cover stories can only give the Colour Magazine a bad name.

Sanjay Agarwal, Calcutta

■ I adore Shobha De, her beauty, her elegance and, above all, her piercing pen. I think 'Starry Nights' is going to create big waves of controversy, much larger than the ripples created by her Socialite Evenings. No one before has ever dared to write about the sordid facts behind these

It was a smart move to give us an extract from the book. But I would have been happier if you had extended the extract to another issue, too.

Prasun Chaudhuri. Calcutta

tinsel tales.

■ It was disgusting to read the extract. And it had cheap nudity spread all over the pages visually.

Not all heroines are obiects for warming beds and the character of the hero is far too fishy. In any case, the extract was not worth reading and it reflected only flesh and grime in

slang language.
Sandeep Dasgupta, Rourkela

Singing Debut

Amit Kumar did not make his debut as a playback singer in *Door Gagan Ki* Chhaon Mein as mentioned by Shovanial Bakshi in his letter (April 28).

That was the first film in which Amit acted, as a child artiste, but he himself has stated at a live function at Siliguri only last year that be inade his debut as a sin-ger in Builles Bechu.

liowajit Sarkar,

Amitabh and Mithun in Gangaa Jamunaa Saraswathi

while his performances in out and out masala films like Mard were applauded. And his performance in Agneepath has added an entirely new dimension to

his acting.
Indranil Datta and Parimal Guha, Calcutta

A reader has said that Mithun became a megastar much before Amitabh did. I think even Mithun must have been surprised to know that. Kaustuv Roy,

Calcutta Cur learned critics are mided by the gross collec-

commercial film, have done the same in case Naseeruddin Shah had won it for Tridev?

film Would a has critiwho cised Amitabh in several reviews, "shower praises" on Amitabh for a "worth-less performance" in "a trashy film" just to please the megastar? And would the BBC have telecast the film to do the same? Swarup Dutta, Dhanbad ::

Getting Ideas

Has the circulation of True TELEGRAPH fallen so much

CONTENTS

The Telegraph

30 JUNE 1991

Another election is over and another government sworn in. And the electorate is watching. Featuring our new Prime Minister who could be the man of the hour.



The mystique of the longest-lived trail of Santa Fe still exists. The wheels are turning once more with the new generation taking to the old dusty route.

Every election sees some big losers and some big winners. Maybe, it is all part of the game. But is that how the big stars who bit the dust felt? A photofeature that tells it all.

The poor, living in the Sunderbans area, live constantly in the fear of shark attacks, but the dangerous waters also provide their livelihood. A report.

SECTIONS

5 Heritage 12 Inner Eye 20 7 Days Junior Whirl Quiz 25 Comics

30 Images

ORIENTAL

PROFILE



OUR CORPORATE GROWTH

Growing customer confidence.

For most companies, growth is isually expressed in terms of airnover. Looking at our balance theet, the sales figures show an impressive growth rate of 29.6%. The highest ever.

And yet, our strength lies in our satisfied policy-holders, shape laims get top priority and serviced yer 3.5 lakh claims laterally be sotal liability amounting to yer Rs. 400 crores/Our settled

policy-holders from all walks of life, like individual householders, businessmen, self-employed, doctors, engineers, computer professionals, small traders and shopkeepers, farmers, cattle and poultry owners and a host of others. Their number keeps growing year after year.

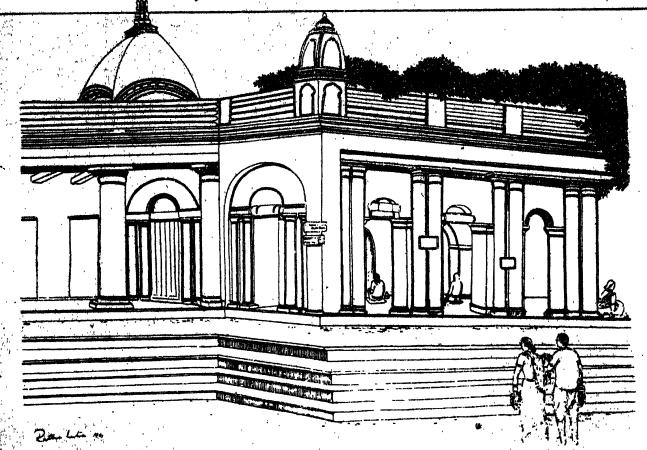
Dear sustomer. For you we have special cells for Grievance. Redressal, Customer Advice said Risk Management. And a work farce 05:18:000 to strend as soon varied acciding general a fixtuation.

Yes, our corporate growth has been impressive. More so, as an expression of your ever-growing confidence in us.



ORIENTAL INTERNAL INTERNAL

SRI SRI RAMAKRISHNA'S RESIDENCE, DAKSHINESWAR



Some thousand years ago in Bengal, King Banraja built a Shiva temple. The image of the Lord was known as Dakslineswar. The temple still exists on the outskirts of north Calcutts, and gives the area its mane.

In 1847, Ram Rashmoni, widow of one of the great samindars of the time, Ramchandra, built a temple of Goddess Annapurns on the bank of the Ganga at Dakshineswar over a 60-bighs area. This is fact, represented the "synthesis of all religions" as was preschied by Sri Sri Rassakrishna same, For, a portion of the same a place, of worship of the Shindin same, fitting

NEW YORK OF SECULO PROPERTY.

Sahib, another part of it was used as a burial ground for Musiims while still another served as a crematorium for Hindus,

The construction of a bathing ghat with concrete steps was undertaken by Mackintosh & Co. for Rs 1.1 lakh. Six Shiva temples were built on either side of the ghat and each was given a distinct name. On the eastern side is the famous Kali Temple. The goddess here is named Dakshineswari Bhabatarini. The Divine Mother is worshipped regularly at dawn, morning, mid-day, afternoon and night. Besides, on special occasions like evers new moon, Durga Puja, Jagaddhatri Puja, Phalaharini Ratanti and Snanayatra and, of course, on Kali Puja, special sacrifices are made before the goddess.

Across the wide corridor is the temple of Radha-Krishna. The main gate of the Kali Temple leads to the bedroom of Sri Sri Ramakrishna where the saint had spent 30 years. For some time he was the chief priest of the Bhabatarini temple. It was in this bedroom that he was deeply absorbed in the meditation of the Almighty, in the south-west corner of the room lie two wooden bedspieds used by Ramakrishna. His articles of daily use like biddspiets, naphina stid mos-

quito nets are preserved in a wooden box. His portrait is kept on one of the beds. The cupboard at the southern corner of the room contains his glass and his clothes along with a copy of the Ramayan. This chamber is a place of pilgrim-age as it was frequented by Ramakrishna's leading disciples, including Swami Vivekananda. To the west is a verandah from where the saint would enjoy the flowing Ganga. To the north of his chamber is the Nahabat—a room where his wife Sarada Devi spent 13 years. A road to the west leads of the Panchabati and to the east of this road is the Peace Cottage.

The time Noon, June 20. The place: 9 Moulal Nehru Marg, New Delhi. A journalist is being questioned by the security staff at the gate:

"What is this? "Medicines

"Swallow one tablet and prove that it is medicine.

"Medicines are taken on doctor's advice and it is not for a policeman to dictate when they should be had. Why are you harassing us? You've just seen our PIB (Press Information Bureau) accreditation, our home ministry security clearance pass and you've already frisked us.

That's no proof, Even Rajiv Gandhi's

killers had press passes
"Then what about the police? Who killed Indira Gandhi? The very people who were supposed to protect her.

uddenly, 9 Motilal Nehru Marg was not just another address in Delhi. Men from the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) had swung into action on orders from the Cabinet secretariat; preparations were on to erect a shamiana and other security-related structures. The crack Special Protection Group (SPG) had also moved in and were mak-

ing a quick survey of the place
This was the kind of treatment reserved for Prime Ministers. And although the Congress(I) parliamentary board observers were still going through the motions of "ascertaining the views of individual MPs on the leadership issue", the choice was clear. Pamulparthi Venkatta Narasimha Rao, like the proverbial turtle, had won the race his way, slow and steady. Sharad Pawar—as R.K.Laxman put it—had come, seen and concurred. The security cordon around Rao's bungalow said it till

The official anointment of Rao as leader of the Congress(I) parliamentary party and his meeting with President R.V. Venkataraman followed the same day. The next day, June 21, Narasimha Rao, "PV" to his friends, was sworn in as the 10th Prime Minister of India—the first ever from the south. His 70th birthday gift had come exactly a week in

advance—and exactly a month after Rajiv

'Gandhi died.

For a man who had not very long ago reportedly told a party colleague, "I am always better as No.2", being numero uno will call for the kind of leadership qualities many believe he does not possess Known and respected as a linguist and a scholar, Rao appears much bettersuited to the quieter environs of academia than the hurly-burly of Indian politics; indeed, his ambition in early life was to be a professor at Oxford. Aware of this perceived drawback in image, Rao, with his inscrutable face, measured tones and carefully chosen words prefers to be phi-

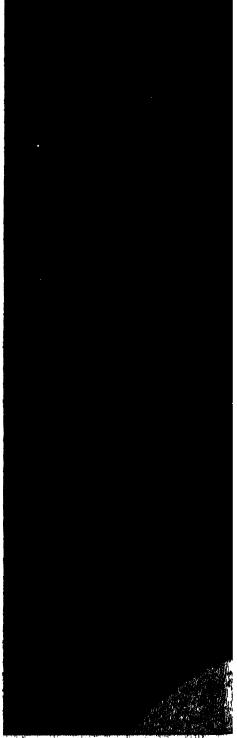
HE DAY OF

P.V. Narasimha Rao is unlike any previous Prime Minister—in more ways than one. What makes him so different? YUBARAI GHIMIRE finds out

losophical: holding a government post -and that includes being PM— is different from being a leader, he says. The former is transient in nature, whereas a leader can inspire even after death "That is why I consider Rajiv Gandhi a leader. There is something spiritual about a leader." Does that imply a person can be a good Prime Minister without necessarily being a leader? Rao isn't letting on.

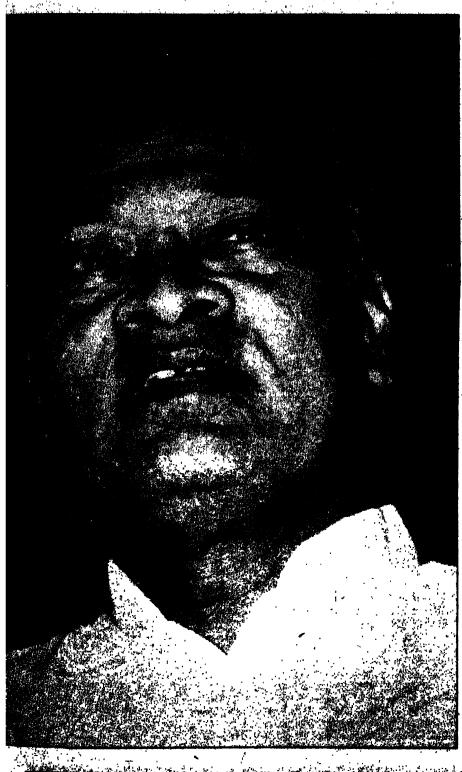
t is one of those ironies of life that Narasimha Rao should hail from the Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh, a stronghold of the People's War Group, a Naxalite organisation that rejects the very electoral process which helped him become Prime Minister. Born into a family of farmers on June 28, 1921, Rao left his roots far behind to graduate from Hyderabad's Osmania University before moving on to two more universities: Bombay and Nagpur. Along the way, he picked up degrees in science, astronomy and law.

It is his linguistic skills, though, that have brought Rao fame. Not only can he converse quite fluently in Telugu, Hindi, English, Marathi, Urdu and Spanish, he also has a sound knowledge of Sankrit and a passing acquaintance with some more languages. He has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for his translation of the Telugu novelist Vishwanatha Satyanarayana's monumental work, Veyi Padagalu into Hindi. He has also translated into Telugu a Marathi novel, Pam Lakshat Kom Ghato, by noted writer Hari Narayan Apte. Recently, there was a story of how Rao, when presented with the English translation of Nobel laureste Gabriel Garcia Marquez's Love in the Time of Cholera, rued the fact that he had not been given the book in its original language, Spanish. (A wish, the report



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THE SOUTH



went on to add, that was promptly complied with.)

Rao strayed into politics via the Congress in the wake of the Telengana struggle against the Nizam of Hyderabad, thus beginning a five-decade old association that continues even till today. (True, Sharad Pawar was looking for a graceful exit line when he said Rao's "experience and politics and administration is more than my age"; but he was not far from the truth.) Rao went on to become general secretary of the then Hyderabad State Congress Committee, and after the reorganisation of the state in 1956, vicepresident of the Andhra Pradesh unit of the party. His electoral career began with a defeat in 1952; but from 1957 onwards, the Manthani constituency in Karimnagar sent him up to the Assembly five times. He became a minister for the first time in 1962 with his 'godfather', Nookala Ramachandra Reddy, putting in a word with the then chief minister Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy. Kasu Brahmanand Reddy retained Rao in his Cabinet. In 1971, the fall of the Reddy ministry pitchforked Rao into the chief minister's chair. To his credit, he tried to initiate some land reform measures. But time was clearly not on his side; within two years, Rao lost his job as President's Rule was imposed to tackle the snowballing movement for a separate Rayalseema state. Was it Rao's inability to control the situation that cost him his chief ministership? "No", says Rao, predictably. "I quit in the interest of the state, to save it from disintegration."

In 1974, he moved to Delhi as general secretary under Devkant Barocah of "Indira is India" fame. He stayed with Mrs Gandhi when the party split. In 1977, he won his first Lok Sabha election, from Hanamkonda, a seat he was to retain three years later. Between 1980 and 1984, he held, in turn, three key portfolios in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet; external affairs, home and defence. When Rajiv Gandhi created the omnibus ministry of human resources development (which included education), he decided that Rao was the man best suited for the challenging job. Three years later, in June 1988, Rao found himself in external affairs once again.

Meanwhile, in 1984, he lost his Hanam-konda seat even as the party swept the polis on the crest of the sympathy wave that followed Indira Gandhi's assassination. But the shrewd politician that he is, he had sensed that the dismissal of the majority government of N.T. Rama Rao by the Centre had hurt "Andhra pride". He had kept a fallback option in the form of the Ramtek constituency in Maharashtra, which in the event proved very useful. He retained the seat in the 1969 general election, but declined to contest this time on health grounds Rso, who left



Andhra a dejected man, has clearly not forgotten his home state: it has received the maximum representation of eight in his ministry. A fact that has not been taken too kindly in many other states. In fact, immediately after the swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Sitaram Kesri was overheard telling Arjun Singh, "You must take it up with the Prime Minister." I will," was Singh's reply.

It would be natural for him to want to return triumphantly to his home state. Will the people who rejected him in 1984. welcome him back, now that he is Prime Minister? Vangara, a sleepy little village in Karimnagar, where Rao spent his childhood days, is waiting to give him a hero's welcome. His almost century-old ancenstral home, now run to seed in the absence of any occupant, has overnight become a tourist attraction. So much so that a score of policemen have had to be posted there. Rao's childhood friends—the old weaver, the carpenter—their faces reflecting a hitherto unknown sense of pride, remember him fondly. They have only good things to say—of kindness and generosity, and of a determination to grow beyond his humble background through the pursuit of knowledge.

Who would have thought Narasimha Rao's childhood days or personal life would become a matter of national interest? A widower with eight children—three sons and five daughtershe is an intensely private man. Although

one of his sons, P.V. Rangarao, is an MLA and a general secretary of the APCC(I), Rao himself is not known to have promoted his family's interest in any significant

If Rao the man remains a mystery to many, Rao the politician is not all that better-known either. He would never answer a direct question till his name was formally proposed for the CPP leadership on June 20. His stock reply: "It is for the CPP to decide." Asked, if the Congress (1) government would approach the Opposition for support in Parliament, he would parry: "The Prime Minister and the party president will jointly decide." But even after becoming both, he remained just as evasive: "You want to know something even before the government can take over."

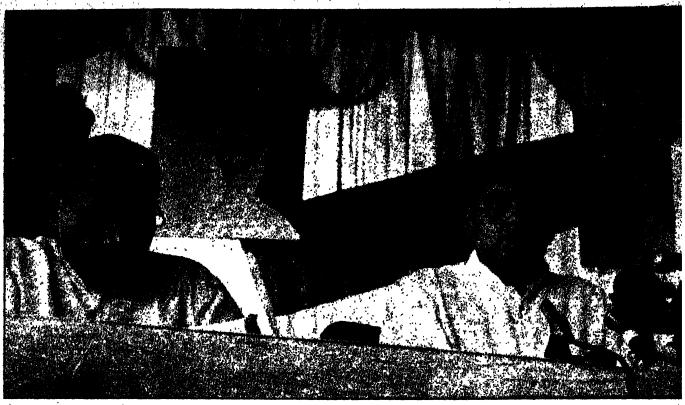
So, where does he stand? His record as a minister does not say much. Indeed, an element of bad luck appears to have dogged his ministerial career. It was during his tenure as home minister that Mrs Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her own bodyguards and hoodlums and antisocials went on the rampage in Delhi.

As external affairs minister, he counted among his personal friends the foreign minister of the USSR, Andrei Gromyko. His understanding of foreign affairs was considered superior to that of even the bureaucrats in the ministry. Yet, it was during his tenure that ladia's image as a "benevolest hig brother" nosedived; it

came to be known as the "regional bully",. distrusted and disliked by many of its neighbours. In particular, there was the flip-flop over Sri Lanka: first, with the alleged decision to allow the Tamil guerrillas to train on Indian soil, and then, the accord with the Jayewardane government in Colombo to jointly fight the Tigers. Relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh reached a low ebb, while the traditional bond of friendship between Nepai and India came under unprecedented strain over the renewal of the trade and transit treaties. Yet, when faced with a barrage of questions in Parliament, Rao coolly replied: "If our neigbouring brethren fear our size, we cannot help it." And then there was his alleged role in the socalled St Kitts scandal, involving V.P. Singh's son, where Rao is said to have ask ed an Indian diplomat in the US to personally certify some "false documents

Despite all that, Rajiv Gandhi never fost trust in Rao. And he obviously did not give much credence to reports that Rao's "guru". Chandra Swami, was trying to replace Rajiv Gandhi, then in the thick of the Bofors controversy, with his disciple from the south: There was no strong deal from Rao, maybe because he felt the entire matter was beneath comment. These reports were fuelled by rumous that the then President, Giani Zali Singh, might ask Rajiv Gandhi to step down list his alleged role in the scandal.

On the contrary, there was specification



even when Rajiv was alive that Rao might become party president. Rajiv had been keen on bifurcating the organisational and government posts and relinquishing his presidenship of the party.

There had been other attempts, too, not entirely serious, to drive a wedge between Rao and Gandhi. After the 1989 election, which saw the Congress in the Opposition benches in the Lok Sabha, the CPI leader. Indrailt Gupta made a jibe at Rajiv, saying: "I thought that in view of the favour that the south has shown for Congress, the party would show some gesture to the south." The message was clear: Rajiv should step down as leader of the party in favour of Rao. The veteran Congressman was quick with his retort: it was Raily Gandhi who was asked first by the President to form a government; in his "magnanimity", he had declined. Many in the House felt Rao's statement stank of sycophancy.

However, just when the entire question of loyalty seemed to have been laid to rest, the old chapter has once again been reopened with the induction of Vidya Charan Shukla as Cabinet minister. Shukla had been actively involved in rallying the anti-Raiv forces and in trying to get Zail Singh elected as President for a second term. That Rao should appoint Shukla as a minister despite his recent re-entry into the party from the Janata Dal via the Janata Dalvia t

ween the two. A nexus that could have gone back to the Rajiv days, it is implied.

To one can accuse Narasimha Rao of being anything but a decent and dignified parliamentarian, a quality that has helped him earn the respect of the Opposition. Last year, just as the Union finance minister, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, was preparing to present the Union Budget, news of the killing of two dozen people in the Punjab reached Parliament. A Congress-supporting MP gave the agency flash to Rao with the suggestion that the proceedings of the House be stalled. But Rao turned down the suggestion on the grounds that interrupting the Budget presentation would set an unhealthy precedent, Instead, he got up just before the Budget was presented and expressed in one sentence his party's concern over the killing. Most other MPs in his place would have created a scene.

On May 29, when he succeeded Rajiv Gandhi as party president, Rao made a strong appeal for dignity and discipline. By excluding from his Cabinet members of the "Shouting Brigade", he has made it clear he will not tolerate indiscipline in the House.

But will he be able to keep the so-called coterie of R.K. Dhawan, M.L. Fotedar & Co. in check? Particularly, considering the role they played in enturing Sharad Pawar's defeat and Rao's elevation. At the

swearing-in ceremony, it seemed Rao had given in completely to the coterie. But subsequently, when the portfolios were allotted, it became apparent that Rao would at least try to be his own man: the coterie members, who had been included in the Cabinet, had actually been left with insignificant charges.

As for the Opposition, Rao's rapport with them may not be enough to keep them off his back. After all, when Congress(I) was in the Opposition, it was Rao who informed V.P. Singh about his party's decision not to participate in the all-party meeting on Punjab on the grounds that the Janata Dal government had not made its stand clear on terrorism. In actual fact, the government had made it clear that it supported a consensus approach and that it was open to suggestions from all parties. Now that the Narasimha Rao government has begun its innings by getting the Punjab elections postponed through the Election Commission, it may be interesting to watch Mr V.P. Singh & Co's approach following their role reversal.

And finally, there remains the looming threat from within the party, in the shape of Sharad Pawar. Pawar may be down at the moment, but can he be ruled out? He made sure at the very outset that Pranab Mukherjee, who was being tipped for the finance minister's post, was kept out of the Cabinet. How many more salvos does he have in reserve?

All in all, a difficult task ahead for Rao.

Ladets in the Indian Military Academy are called gentlemen cadets. The idea is that a trainee not only becomes a good professional soldier, but also a gentleman. Of course, in the days gone by an officer was automatically expected to be a gentleman; required to observe an unwritten but a strict code of conduct. Some things were just not done-like appealing against a superior, cribbing about supercession, or stealing the affection of a brother officer's wife as en extramarital relationship was rather intly phrased. Not that there were no blackguards or black sheep, but peer group pressure or a few hints from the top brought the recalcitrant back on to the line, or he was made to resign his commismon.

That code of conduct was an inheritance from the British. There were many outward manifestations; dressing for dinner, for instance. This writer was sent out of the regiment's officers' mess one Sunday evening for not wearing a dinner jacket. And football matches in Ambala in June had to be witnessed wearing grey flannels, blazer and felt hat. There were yet other forms, more important ones like paying for all services received; in peace stations officers paid even for the services of a batman. An officer was not expected to have pots of money, or even be tempted by filthy lucre. Rather, not unlike Bertie Wooster, he was expected to owe money to the regimental tailor, and be a wee bit overdrawn at the bank. Mess and club bills had to be paid, even if it meant borrowingmoney from the unit's canteen contractor. There existed in cantonments a social system and mores centred around officers' messes and the club, originally introduced by the British to meet their imperialistic purposes as the ruling class. It continued even after Independence, albeit with some changes to suit Indian sensibilities, but retaining its basic elements. That it was ridiculed—an Indian Army officer was the archetypal wog and the last "Englishman" left in the world—did not detract from its obvious merits of emphasising on values like honesty, simplicity, uprightness and

There has been a sea change, regrettably not for the better. A few months ago, the print media including a few highly reputed newsmagazines were full of stories of the sacking of lieutenant-generals on charges of moral turpitude. Generals have been court-martialled for "misusing" government funds. It seems almost every officer now petitions against any "adverse" comment endorsed in their annual confidential reports, or goes to court to appeal against the promotion board's decisions. There is open talk of corruption, not just of misuse of privileges or perks. Free social intercourse in clubs and messes have practical-

Officers

ly disappeared mainly because no one wants to "pay" for them. There are gittering functions, usually to welcome or bid farewell to senior officers; or to celebrate regimental days and the like, but all free of any charges, expenses being met from regimental funds meant for welfare activities. There is an ever-increasing demand for more perks and privileges, not always justifiable or attributable to inflation. Young officers seek investment counselling and start house-building even before

K.D. Majumder, a retired general, looks at the decline of the Indian Army

they marry. All in all, that inspiring motto of the IMA: "Service Before Self", has been replaced by "Self Before Service".

The watershed year, arguably, was 1971. Till the beginning of the Sixties, the old code of conduct had been more or less maintained. Dilution started with largescale expansion; but three wars had kept everyone too busy to worry about norms and values. The emphasis was on producing a better professional soldier. After the 1971 war, the officer community felt that the Army had redeemed its honour lost in the 1962 debacle and expected to be amply rewarded.

Older readers might recollect Field Marshal Manekshaw's pleas to the Third Pay Commission. But what the government finally gave was well below expectations. Perusal of service journals and media articles of the mid-Seventies would show how disillusioned and disappointed the officer community had become by then. There were strident demands, articulated by senior officers, for parity with the IAS and the IFS, more perks to offset inflation, better promotion prospects and what have you. Amusingly, the fall in the market value of army officers in the marriage market was cited as one of the prime reasons for better service conditions. Inevitably, the army officer compared his lot not only with his counterpart in other Central services, but also with the emerging business executive class. The mouveau riche culture that came into being in Delhi and other cities began rubbing off on the services and even percolated down to fighting formations and units. Thus, one attended a sand model discussion on tactics and came away, after being much wined and dined, with an expensive gift, euphemistically called a memento, not unlike a participant in a sales conference of a commercial organisation!

The infusion of five star culture raised the level of expectation and started eroding the old value system and code of conduct. Since higher expectations were not met by pay and perks given officially, some of it was met by granting unofficial concessions, like use of government transport for social and personal use. Privileges were grossly misused, mostly by senior officers. The most unfortunate fallout of this process was the gradual alienation be-tween the senior (privileged) and junior (underprivileged) officers. The easy camaraderie that existed in messes and clubs, where all were socially equal, started to disappear. The process even got extended to the ladies; the more senior the husband, the more privileges the wife demanded.

The other manufestation of the higher expectation was promotion, reversely, early retirement if not promoted. The psychological and economic pressure on a lieutenant-colonel, destined to retire at the age of 50, or even a major-general retiring at 54, need not be highlighted. It became especially important to get the next rank, so as to be able to serve for a few years more, and nothing was left undone to get it. Slowly but surely it opened the floodgates of sycophancy and other ills better left unsaid and when rejected, appeals and petitions and court cases. Worse, it gave rise to a new class of "rejectees". In the absence of job opportunities outside, the rejectees stayed on, serving out their time and in the process polluting the minds of juniors and extracting from the service all that could be extracted. Among them could be seen officers of all ranks, from majors, and thanks to periodic cadre reviews which bloated the rank structure, major-generals. By fiddling with the prom-otion policy and the annual confidential reporting system, successive chiefs did not help much.

That something was going wrong had been perceived. And that something had to be done had also been realised. But, the thrust was to get more and more

but Gentlemen?

from the government, strident demand for free rations, and ultimately its acceptance by the government symbolised this trend. Not many perhaps realised that it was also the final blow to the old, noble concept of officers paying for whatever they received.

The demand for more concessions was not matched by an equal insistence on maintaining the moral code. Indeed, there were periodic letters and instructions not to misuse transport, not to misuse manpower, not to throw lavish parties, not to do this and not to do that. General officers occupying flag staff houses were told to make an inventory of regimental and mess properties decorating their residences and asked to pay a nominal amount for their use. (But no one was asked to explain why regimental monies had been spent for the official residence, which is looked after by the MES.) Falling moral standards were discussed at many conferences; and many senior officers did not set a personal example of uprightness and honesty. Gen. Sundari even went to the extent of mentioning it in his famous DO letter to all officers. Though much was expected, he could do very little to reverse the trend, possibly because of his preoccupation with other more weighty matters. Somewhat uncharitably, it can be said that he even encouraged the five star culture by setting up in a section of the sprawling Army mess in Dhaula Kuan (Delhi), a five star segment nearly as opulent as the lounges of two neighbouring luxury hotels. And his introduction of staff and command streams in the promotion policy only added to the number of statutory complaints, and court

Yet, no matter how gloomy the picture looks, it would be universally agreed that something has to be done to stem the rot. It is often argued that the officer community only reflects the falling moral and ethical standards of the society at large; the corollary being that nothing much can be done. Cynicism apart, it is impossible to believe that India's urban middle class, from where the majority of officers come, has no values and ethics. In any case, the officer class does not have to reflect the The of a society, it ought to show the better qualities, It is not too late to change direction, provided corrective actions are and an alternative lifestyle intro-

The real question is: how? The

tions, and take disciplinary action against offenders. There have been attempts at codification of perks and privileges. This legalistic approach, clearly, is not adequate. What is required is creation of moral pressure, or conversely, removal of the amorality which has invaded service life. To achieve this, senior officers must regain their moral ascendancy, set an example of behavioural norms and observance of ethical values. Whosoever is in a position to enjoy a perk or privilege must demonstrate that he does not misuse them. Symbolic acts will be in order: a commanding officer having only one batman, a brigade commander not using the mess cook as his personal cook, a GOC's wife going to the ladies' club in her own car or even in a cycle rickshaw. Social life must return to the club or officers' mess, where there should be no VIPs, or exclusive service for a select few. Senior offic-

Whoseever is in a position to enjoy a perk or privilege must demonstrate that he does not misuse them. Symbolic acts will be in order: a commanding officer having only one batman, a brigade commander not using the mess cook as his personal rook, a GOC's who going to the ladies' club in her own car of even in a cricie.

ers must set an example of simple and unostentatious living, for their juniors to emulate. This is not a plea for Gandhian austerity, but for avoiding superficial gitter. It should not be difficult to spread the message that elegance lies in simplicity, and it is not expensive to be atylish.

It may be more difficult to restore confidence in the system of reporting and promotion because it requires a degree of self-discipline among all who write confidential reports, and that is sadly lacking. Many suggestions can be given, and one suspects that the powers that be are already aware of them. But acceptance of two fundamental premises might help: there cannot be total objectivity in any reporting system, and, no system of numerical valuation can bring out the nearly infinite variations of character qualities and professional abilities. It would also help a great deal if the adopted system is allowed to function and stabilise, and none can fiddle with it at will. Exceptions may have to be made, but let these be made openly and without amending the rules. If an army commander or a chief wishes to promote someone, let him do so by stating openly that the promotion was outside the system, and it is being done as a personal privilege and prerogative of an army commander or chief.

The economic cause of discontentment must also be removed. The deadwood in the form of rejectees must not be allowed to infect others. It should not be difficult to work out a scheme by which officers, at different levels of service, are given an option and rehabilitated in jobs in other Central services or in public and private sectors. This is not as formidable a proposition as it may appear, nor would such a scheme impinge on job opportunities and promotion prospects of others.

An army is only as good as its officers. Leading men into battle, asking them to sacrifice their lives, calls for character qualities and leadership abilities not required in any other walk of life. India spends an immense amount on her Army; she can ill afford to have a badly officered one. The problem should be of concern to every citizen of the country, and corrective action must be taken, not just by the present COAS, who has already avowed a moral rearmament, but by all who are in power and can do something about it. Hopefully, in the not too distant a future, the country will have, not a restored wog, but a true Indian gentleman and officer.

LOSS OF

An electoral defeat for the big guns matters much more than it seems on the face of it. And this is perhaps how they would have expressed their immediate reaction

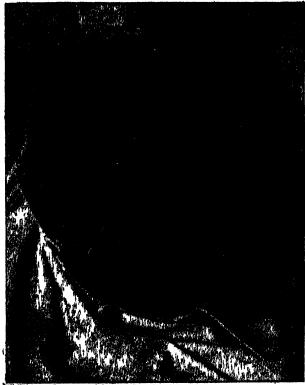
Maneka Gandhi: No thanks, I can do without glycerine



Mufti Mohammad Sayeed: Hope it won't be the fag end for me

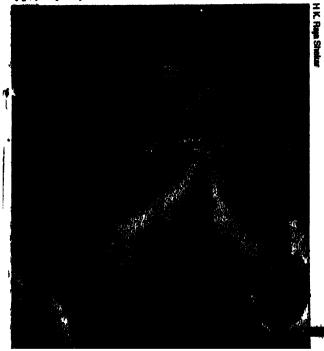


FACE



H.K.L. Bhagat: Given the dark look

Ramakrishna Hegde. Always the retiring type, anyway

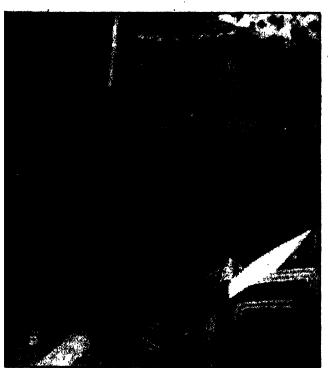




N. D. Tiwari: Now, what could have been the prime factor?



Devi Lal: Kingmaker? Who, me?



Kheyali Dastidar and Ayan Baner jee in Path O Prashad

Directed by P. Chandra Kumar and with music by Naresh Sharma, the film stars Rupa Ganguly, Poonam Das Gupta, Om Puri, Shakti Kapoor and debutant Vikram Razdan.

• 100 Days: Elite (S.N. Banerjee

Road; 241383)—4 shows.

Jackie Shroff, Madhuri Dixit, Javed Jaffrey and Laxmikant Berde comprise the main cast of this film, directed by Partho Ghosh. The music is by Raam Laxman.

• Prem Qaidi: Metro (Chowr-inghee Road; 280141), Gem (Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Road; 249828), Jagat (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 365108), Grace (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 391090), Talkie Show House (Shibdas Bhaduri Street: 552270). Menoka (Sarat Chatterjee Avenue; 410417), Naaz (Lower Chitpur Road; 277273), Kalika (Sadananda Road; 758141).

Karisma Kapoor and Harish are the lead pair in this film, directed by K, Murali Mohana Rao. The music is by Anand Milind.

• Pyar Hua Chori Chori: Orient (Bentinck Street; 281917)-4 shows.

Mithun Chakraborty and debutante Gauthami are the lead pair in this film: Others co-starring are Shikha Swaroop, Anupam Kher, Shafi Inamdar, Shubha Khote and Shakti Kapoor, The film is directed by K. Bapaish and the music is by Laxmikant Pyarelal.

• Ramgarh Ke Sholay: Roxy (Chowringhee Place; 284138), Crown (Rafi Ahmed Kidwaj Road; 244822), Basusree (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 484808), Moonlight (T.C. Dutta Street; 254956), Sree (Bidhan Sarani; 551515), Purabi (Mahatma Gandhi Road; 350680), Bina (Bidhan Sarani; 311522).

Amjad Khan is the star attraction of this film, directed by Ajit Dewani. The music is by Annu Malik.

Bengali Edmis

• Beder Meye Josna: Rupbani (Bidhan Sarani; 553413), Aruna (Mahatma Gandhi Road: 359561). Bharati (S.P. Mukherjee Road; 474686)—1, 4, 7.

One of the biggest hits in recent times, this Bangladesh production stars Chiranjeet and Anju Ghosh. Others co-starring are Saifuddin,

Vikram Razdan and Poonam Das Gupta in Meena Bazar

All information given on these pages is accurate at the time of going to press

REGULAR SHOWS

• Izzat: Paradise (Bentinck Street; 285442), Lotus (S.N. Banerjee Road; 242664), Krishna (T.C. Dutta Street; 250437), Mitra (Bidhan Sarani; 551133), Chhaya (Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road; 351382), Priya (Rashbehari Avenue; 744440), Madhuban (Regent Park).

Jackie Shroff, Sangeeta Bijlani and Shakti Kapoor are the principal attractions of this film, directed by Ashok Gaikwad. The music is by Annu Malik

• Kurbaan: Majestic (Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road; 242266)-4

Sunil Dutt, Salman Khan, Ayesha Julka, Kabir Bedi, Rohini Hattungady and Gulshan Grover are the chief attractions in this film, directed by Deepak Bahry. The music is by Anand Milind.

• Main Pyaasi Hoon (A): New Cinema (Lenin Sarani; 270147)-4 shows.

The film stars Javalalitha. Jayadevan and Jayarekha. • Meena Basar (A): Jyoti (Lenin Sarani; 241132)-4 ahows.

3 34 5



ilider, Nesir Khan, Abban, Sema, mamika, Subhendu, Amarnath nd Bulbus. The film is derected by latiyur Rehman Panu and the succ is by Abu Taher.

Path O. Prashed: Minar Bidhan Sarani; 552753), Bijoh S.P. Mukherjee Road; 753462), hhabighar (Mahatma Gandh: lond; 352740)—3, 5.45, 8.30.

A Tarun Majumdar film, starring Itpai Dutt, Sandhya Roy, Soumita Chatterjee, Anup Kumar, Ayan anerjee, Kheyalı Dastıdar. libhas Chakraborty, Aloka Gangur, Ruma Guhathakurta, Kalyani fondal, Dilip Roy, Arun Banerjee, atya Bandopadhyay and Master intu. The music is by V. Balsara.

Anthony Kabiyal: Kashi Bis-wansh Mancha (Canal West Road; 155508)-Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Set.

& Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm. Directed by James Match the main cast comprises Arindam Ganguly, Indrani Halder, Kali Banatics, Ketaki Dutta and Dulai Lahki.

• Ghatak Bidaye: Star (79/3/4 Bidan Sazani; 339369)—Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

The play stars Madhabi Mukher-jee, Tarun Kumar, Sreela Majumder, Rabi Ghose and Soumitra Chatterjee, who has also directed the play and composed its music. Nati Binodini: Bijon Theatre (5A Raja Raj Kissen Street; 338413)-Thurs. at 6.30 pm; Sat. & Sun. at 3 pm & 6.30 pm.

Directed by Bina Dasgupta who also stars in the title role, the cast includes Ashim Kumar, Aniteah Bhattackarya, Ujiai Sengupta, Kaberi Biswas and others.

30 June & 1 July: 3 pan - 8 pan An exhibition of printings by Probat Promonik in the West Gal-

Specially Contr

lery.

36 June - 4 July: 3 pm - 8 pm

Sadrasha will hold an enhibition
of paintings and acceptures in the

North Callery.

At Academy of Fine Arts, 30 June ouwards

An exhibition of oil and acrylic paintings by Shyamel Mukherjee, Anjan Dobey, Dipti Chalkraharti and Gopinath Das. Also, a few recent paintings on oil by Dhiraj Choudhury will also be on daplay. The exhibition continues till July

At Gallery BF 14 (BF-14, Sector 1, Salt Lake).
30 June: 6 pm me: 6 pr

Andhra Association, Calcutta

presents an evening of Carnetic music featuring Prof. Vegrabhedra Rao (harmonitim) with S. Arvind on the mridangam. At Andres Hall (13A Shahangar

Roed; 425718).

30 June: 6 pen
Calcutta Action Group will stage
the Punjabi play, Rubh Raskin,
written and directed by S.H. Ali. The programme is presented by Ashra Youngsters.

At G.D. Birla Sabhagar (29 Ashutosh Choudhury Avenue; 479717).

6 July: 6 pm Sanakrin Sagar presents Peter Shaffer's play, The Royal Hunt of the Sun, produced by Platform of Bombay and directed by Perez Khen.

At G.D. Birla Sabhagar (29 Ashstosh Choudhury Avenue; Calcutta 19).

NOTE: All arrival and departure times are for Calcutta. Figures in brackets denote the days, 1 being Monday.

Phane

International Calcutte-Bombey-London-New Paloutte-Bombay-London-New fork: Dep. (2): Al-104 at 0040, Bombay-Caloutte-Bangkok-fokyo: Arr. (5): Al-308 at 1830; Pep. (5): Al-308 at 1940, Fokyo-Bangkok-Caloutte-Bombay: Arr. (6): Al-309 at 1825; Pep. (6): Al-309 at 1830, Jondon-Delhi-Caloutte: Arr. (7): bl-132/1328 at 1045. Blossow-Sharjah-Caloutta: Arr. (4): Sul-537 at 1525. Caloutte-Sharjah-Moscow: Caloutte-Sharjah-Moscow:

4): 5U-537 at 1525.
Calcutta-Sherjah-Moscow:
Ap. (4): SU-538 at 1725.
Moscow-Tashkent-KarachiMostor-Hanol: Arr (2): SU-541
at 0640; Dep (2): SU-541 at 0780
Hanol-Calcutta-KarachiAdamana. Apr (6): SU-

Teshkent-Moscow: Arr. (2): SU-42 at 1615; Dep (2): SU-542 at

n-Calcutta: Arr. (4): RJ-184 1 0645.

an: Dep. (5); PJ-85 at 0530.

Busharest-Abu Dhabiinfoutte-Bangliot: Arr. (1): RO-63 at 1045; Dep. (1): RO-683 at

Benglet-Calcutte-Abu Dhabi-ucharest: Arr. (1): RO-064 at 945; Dep. (1): RO-064 at 2100. Taleutta-Singapore: Dep. (2): Q-416 at 1130 and Dep. (4): SQ-20 at 1310, suggests Calcutta; Arr. (2): SQ-20 at 1310, suggests Calcutta; Arr. (2): SQ-

Ingepere-Calcutte; Arr. (2): SQ-15 bit 1025 und Arr. (4): SQ-420 et șic.

2-7-31 et 0900; Dep. (2, 4, 7). 2-7-31 et 0900; Dep. (1, 8, 6): TG-14 et 1985. Indignis Calcula.

15 M 1900; AV. (1, S. 6; TG.

plante Katheliander: Dap. (2, 4, 7): 13-747 at 1600; Dap. (1, 5):

RA-214 at 1455.

Kethmendu-Caloutte: Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): IC-748 at 1930; Arr. (1, 5). RA-213 at 1355

74-213 at 1355 Calcutte-Dhalm; Dep. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6): 16-723 at 1340, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): BG-082 at 1305, Dep. (7): BG-095 at 1820, Dep. (5, 6): BG-096 at 1935, Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4): BG-098 at 2020. Chalte-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6):

Dhatta-Calcutta: Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): IC-794 at 1600, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): BG-091 at 1225, Arr. (7): BG-095 at 1710, Arr. (5, 6): BG-095 at 1865, Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4): BG-097 at

1940. culta-Chittagong: Dep. (2, 5):

BG-898 at 0905. Chittagong-Calcutta: Arr. (2, 5): BG-897 at 0825.

Calcutta-Faro: Dep. (2). KB-108 at 0900; Arr. (2): KB-105 at 0900.

Dom: str

Calcutte-Sombay: Dep (2): Al-101 at 0040; Dep. (6): Al-309 at 1930. Bomb

ey-Calcutta: Arr. (5): Al-306 at 1830. Delhi-Caloutta: Arr (1): Al-1328 at

Calcutta-Bethl: Dep. (daily): IC-263 at 0700 and IC-402 at 1750; Ar. (daily): IC-401 at 1205 and IC-204 at 2265. Calcutta-Benniss.

204 at 2265.
Celoutte-Sensley: Dep. (delly): IC-176 at 0500 and IC-273 at 2000; Arr. (delly): IC-274 at 1900 and IC-175 at 0500.
Celoutte-Madrae: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7): IC-766 at 1760; Arr. (d): IC-856 at 1760; Arr. (d): IC-866 at 2200.

-Bergelow: Dept (1, 2, 4,

Printed here is the regular Indian Airlines schedule. This is, however, subject to change. Passengers are advised to keep track of announcements made by Indian Airlines in the press. For assistance, they may contact (city office) 263380, 264433, 262415, 262649, 262657 and 262909, and (airport) 569433, 569637, 569641, 267007 and 204433.

6, 7) IC-771 at 0820, Arr (1, 2, 4, 6, 7) IC-772 at 1200. Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna-

Lucknow-Dethi: Dep. (daily), IC-410 at 0815

Deihi-Lucknow-Patna-Ranchi-Calcutta: Arr (deliy): IC-409 at 1545

Calcutta-Gurrahati: Dep. (daily): IC-229 at 1340, Dep. (1, 3, 5, 8): IC-729 at 0730; Arr. (daily). IC-230

Ex-Gervicemen's Coast Service (Alrines House to Cas-outta Airport): Departures from Airines House at 4.20 am, 5.30 am, 7.15 am, 9.30 am, 11.30 am, 2 15 pm. 3.15 pm. and 5.45 pm. Departures from Calcutta Airport depends upon the arrival of the flights.

at 1630, Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): 1C-730 at

Calcutta-Agertale: Dep. (Sally): iC-741 at 0835 and iC-743 at 1850; Art. (delity): iC-742 at 1056 and iC-744 at 1550. Calcutta-Port Males

Collection Fort Stein: Dep. (2, 4, 6): IC-486 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-486 at 0530; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-486 at 1080; Arr. (2, 4, 6): IC-486 at 1080; Arr. (1): IC-486 at 1080; Arr. (1): IC-486 at 1220.

Still cutton-To-

Figure at 1220.

Gaicutta-Toxpur-JornatBeloutta: Dep. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1430, Dep. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 1600; Per. (2, 4): IC-213 at 1525, Art. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 1525, Art. (3, 5, 7): IC-213 at 1525.

Celcutta-Begdogra: Dep. (1): IC-221 at 1300, Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 7): IC-221 at 1100; Arr. (1): IC-222 at 1520, Art (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): 1C-222

at 1320

at 1320
Calcutta-Olbrugarh: Dep. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-201 at 1400; Arr. (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7): IC-202 at 1730.
Calcutta-Glicher-Imphal: Dep. (daly): IC-255 at 0810; Arr. (daly): IC-258 at 1080.
Calcutta-Imphal-Dimapur-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-257 at 130; Arr. (1, 3, 5, 7): IC-257 at 1810.

1510. 1810. Calcutta-Shubaneswar-Nagour-Hyderehad: Dep. (3, 5, 6)-10-260 at 1660; Arr. (3, 5, 6). 10-270 at 2040. Calcutta-Shubaneswar: Dep. (1,

2, 4, 7): IC-289 at 1650, Arr, (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-270 at 1910. Calcutta-Hyderabed: Dep (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-277 at 1720, Arr (1, 2, 4, 7): IC-278 at 2210

Calcutta-Vishakapatnam. edres: Dep (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-542 at 1000.

Madres-Vishakas Calcutta: Arr. (1. 2. 4. 6) outta: Arr. (1, 2, 4, 6): IC-541 at

Vsyudoot III Calcutte-Agertale-Kellesheher: Dep. (2, 4): PF-729 et 0710; Arr. (2, 4): PF-730 et 1120.

Calcutta-Shillong-Agartatés Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5, 6). PF-701 at 0710, Dep. (7): PF-701 at 1210;

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Arr. (1, 3, 5, 6): PF-702 at 1120, Arr. (7): PF-702 at 1620. Calcutta-Agartala-Silchar: Dep. (7): PF-729A at 0710; Arr. (7): PF-730A at 1140.

Calcutta-Jamshedpur: Dep. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-717 at 0630, Dep. (2, 4, 6): PF-717A at 1330; Arr. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6): PF-718A at 1525.

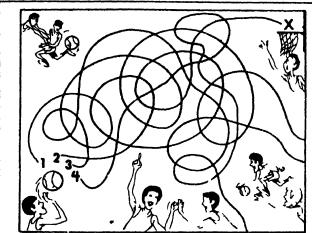
Calcutta-Agartala-Alzawi: Dep (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-705 at 0855; Arr. (2, 4, 6, 7): PF-706 at 1300.
Calcutta-Agartala-Alzawi-Calcutta: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-705A

at 1250; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-706A at 1635.

Calcutta-Cooch Behar: Dep. (1, 3, 5): PF-707 at 0855; Arr. (1, 3, 5): PF-708 at 1150.

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2381	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Delhi) Ex-	18-00	2382	8002	19-20	Bombey Mail via Nagour	8-00	8001
		press via Gaya-Varanasi			2660	12-35	Gitanjeli (Bombay) Express	15-05	2859
		Dep-Tues, Thurs & Sat.			8034	20-20	Ahmedebad Express	5-05	8033
		Arr-Wed. Fri. & Sun.			8030	11-30	Bombay Express via Nagpur	15-50	8029
2303	9-15	Air-Cond. (New Deihi) Ex- press via Patna	-18-00	2304	2841	14-30	Coromandel (Madras) Ex- press	11-50	2842
		Dep—Mon, Wed. Frl. & Sun. Arr—Mon, Tues. Thurs. & Set.			2611	22-35	Bangalore Express Dep.—Tues	13-45	2612
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		week			8013	17-30	Tata Steel Express	10-20	8014
		Dep-Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. &			8011	6-10	lepét Express	22-30	-8012
		Sun.			8005	21-00	Sambalpur Express	7-30	8006
		Arr—Tues. Wed. Thurs. Sat. & Sun			8015	21-40	Ranchi Hatia Express	6-05	8016
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2547	13-15	Arr—Tues. Wed. & Sat. Purbanchal (Gorakhpur) Ex-	4-15	2548	2821	5-55	Dhauli (Bhubaneswar) Ex- press	21-20	2822
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3049	13-05	Amritsar Express	15-45	3050	i		Monday only		
3039	20-55	Delhi Janeta Express via Main Line	5-30	3040	-	14-10	Trivandrum Central - Howrah - Guwahati Express	13-45	26 01
3019	16-00	Lucknow Express	11-55	3020	l		Saturday only		
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5659	17-35	Kamrup (Ğuwahati) Express	6-30	5660	l		Guwahati Weekiy Express		
3317	6-10	Black Diamond Express	21-25	3316	1		(via Visakhapatnam & Howrah)		
3029	17-15	Coeffield Express	10-30	3030			Thursday only		
3035	18-20	Asensoi Express	8-45	3036	2650	22-35	Guwahati-Cochin Harbour	22-15	
3031	21-00	Danapur Express	6-35	3032	ı		Terminus Weekly Express		
3025	23-00	North Bihar Express DepWednesday ArrFriday	11-10	3026			(via Howrah & Visakhapatnam) Saturday only		
3071	22-05	Jamaipur Tri-wkiy Express Dep—Tues. Thurs. & Sat.	6-00	3072	2652	22-35	Cochin Harbour Terminus Superfast Express (via Visakhapatnam & Madras)	13-45	26 51
		Arr-Mon. Thurs. & Sat.			1		Dep-Fri. & Sun		
3015	9-55	Santiniketan Express	15-40	3016	l		Arr-Tues. & Fri.		
2159	15-25	Chambel (Gwallor) Express Dep—Sat. & Sun.	7-30	2160	2674	22-35	Guwahati-Bangalore City Weekly Express (via Howrah	22-15	-
1171	15-25	Art—Tues. & Wed. Shipra (Indore) Express	7	44=-	I		& Cuttack)		
, , 1	19-29	Dep.—Tues. & Wed. Arr.—Sat. & Sun.	7-30	1172	-	, 14-10	Wednesday only Bengalore City-Guwahati Weeldy Express (via Howrah	13-45	2673
3327	15-25	Shektipunj (Chopen) Express- Dep & Arr—Mon. & Fri.	7-30	3328			& Cuttack) Monday only		
2161	15-25	Chambel (Agra Centt.) Express Arr & Dep—Thursday	7-30	2182	2610	22-35	Patna-Cochin Harbour Ter- minus Weekly Express (via	22 -15	-
5049	22-25	Gorakhpur Express Dep & Arr—Sunday	10-40	5050	1		Howrah) Thursday only		
		Sealdah			-	14-10	Cochin Harbour Terminus- Patna Weekly Express (via	13-45	2609
3143	19-00	Derjeeling Mail	8-45	3144	I		Howrah)		
3111	19-55	Dolhi Express via Main Line	7-00	3112	1		Wednesday only		
2557	7-30	Kanchenjunga Express	20-35	2558	1				
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JUNIOR WHIRL - Hal Kaufman



LONG SHOT! See if you can tell on first try which one of four possible paths takes the ball to the net at top right

 DIM SUMS! Added the squares of two whole numbers under 10 total 100. Quickly what are the two numbers?
 Answer in a minute. if you can

14gie bns x 2 ans 214d nu a 1



IFTY NIGHT LINES!

Let us suppose that the statement if I retire at 10 pm I a ways slike; well is correct. Then which one of the following statements also necessarily true?

- necessar ly true?

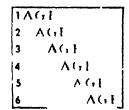
 1 If 1 retire before 10 pm 1 never sleep well
- 2 If I retire after 10 pm I never sleep well
- 3 I never sleep well if I have not retired at 10 pm
- 4 If I do not sleep well I have not retired at 10 pm Remember you are asked to pick just one of the statements

b on a enote ised

e AGE SPREAD! Six eightletter words, below, reveal the word AGE in progres sive steps. These six words are defined below. How quickly can you find them?

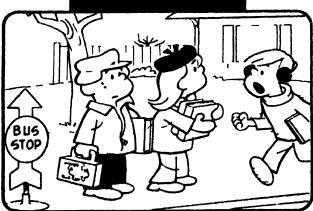
Definitions 1 Insurance offices and others 2 Those who bet 3 in a spare way 4 Brutally 5 Youth group member 6 Drink

Sevegery 5 Teenager 6 Beverage 4



HOCUS-FOCUS





CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differ ences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

Differences 1 Sign is shorter 2 Lunciflox is moved 3 Jacket is opered 4 Het bow a smaller 5 Purse is missing 6 Arm is lower

FUNSPOT



TIME OUT! Time out for a snack time in for a doughnut Add colors to scene 1—Red 2—Lt blue 3—Yellow 4—Lt brown 5—Flesh 6—Lt green 7—Dk brown 8—Dk blue 9—Purple

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words

CAMPOREE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters

Try to score at least 50 points arow ened werdere expressed



Pritain is the home of football. Why?" asks Shyamal Nandy, Calcutta 29.

The ancient Greeks played a kind of football during their athletics and drama festivals. The Chinese emperor staged the game at his court, where the defeated team not only lost the match but also their heads. The Romans colonising Britain, the Renaissance courtiers of Florence, the American Indians: all are on record as playing a brand of football. No doubt other societies have had a similar involvement, but haven't had anyone to record the fact. In Britain, football seems to have been popular from the 12th century on. For several hundred years it remained a vigorous and widespread folk sport, despite numerous attempts by judges, kings, queens and churchmen to ban the game, or to fine and imprison players.

Many reasons have been given over the centuries about why football should not be either played or watched. One typical reaction was: 'In as much as there is great noise in the city caused by bustling over large balls... from which many evils might arise which God forbid: we command and forbid on behalf of the king, on pain of imprisonment, such game to



11th Question: How did the world no. 1 printer EPSON get its name? (Sanjay Prasad, Management Services, TELCO, Jamshedpur 831010)

Ans: The manufacturer, Hattori & Sons, borrowed the idea from IBM's graphic

electronic printer and hence they named it the Electronic Printer's SON—EPSON. Incidentally, we all refer to this as an IBM printer as this printer is marketed worldwide by this mega-glant.

be used in the city in future.' Proclamation in London, 1314.

The basis of the present rules and organisation of soccer was established during the middle of the last century in Britain. Until that time the public schools considered the game 'only fit for butcher boys'. But about 1850 it was seen that football could fit in with educational ideas. Football was to help encourage such qualities as 'group loyalty, willingness to compete according to rules, cooperativeness, courage, leadership, ability, and the like'. Which is where schools got the idea of compulsory games.

What these schools did, together with some of the universities where their boys later moved, was to pave the way for football to become a nationwide game, by sorting out a single set of rules. This took many years to achieve

since those who adhered to the Harrow Rules or the Eton Rules or the Cambridge Rules did not always see the point of giving way to another school of thought.

Many books dealing with the history of football imply that it was only the sons of the rich who kept the game going and then made it popular during this period. But football had not suddenly stopped outside the public schools and the universities during this period. The industrial revolution brought thousands from the country into the towns, and the game continued in the streets. though without the objections from Church and State to draw attention to its existence. With the restrictions on space involved in playing in the towns, such arts as dribbling began to assume more importance.

Probably the first

important industrial centre for football was Sheffield where at least two clubs were in existence by the time the Sheffield Rules were worked out in 1857; by 1862 there were 15. It was to the Sheffield Association that many of the new northern clubs affiliated, a short while after a small group of London-based clubs had formed the Football Association in 1863. The division between north and south affected the structure of football for a considerable period, causing rivalry between the FA and the Football League, between professionals and amateurs. between the industrial centres and the less urbanised regions.

The history of football is too often told in terms of the external landmarks in its development: the founding of the FA, now the Cup began, the founding of the League, the start of the World Cup competition, and so on. Though such things have their place, there is much more of interest to be found if the game is seen in relation to the social history of any given period.

Postscript: The Saturday Club Inter-Club Camival Quiz on July 5 at 6.45 pm.

QUESTIONS

1) When a state is under President's Rule, how is its annual budget passed? (Manoj Kumar Singh, Patratu)

2) Which Hollywood
Western movie was based
on Kurpeawa's The Seven
Samural? (Aloy Dey, Monachendanoukur 2)
3) Which famous music

3) Which famous music director sang songs under the name 'Chitalkar'? (Kalishik Kumar Nag, Hoogray

4) What has been described as the world's biggest

offer of promotional free trips? (Sushil Poddar, Calcutta 29)

5) Who said, "My President is Lord Shankar and my Prime Minister is Durga"? (Anjani Kumar, Ranchi 1)

6) Where was India's first electronic telephone exchange installed? (Jaydeep Gulia Thekuria, Calcutia 59)

The Switzerland, who are Grasseppers 7 (Subretatinider, Taibeni S) Programme the inst US Programme to visit indigs (Waster Februah and Jasim Akhtar, Jorhat 2)
9) Who played the role of Madan Sharma in the film Holf (based on Mahash: Elkunchwar's play of the same name, filmed by Ketan Mehta)? (Animo Sen, Calcutta 33)

10) Which pop group is the first to sell a million COs (compact discal of as album? (Footh S. Challet see, Sliguit S)

ANSWERS

-ball first many are set

7) A soccer club. 8) Jimmy Certer. 8) April: Mair.

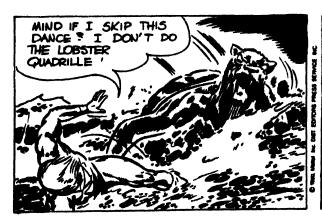
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COMICS









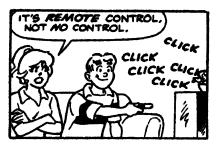




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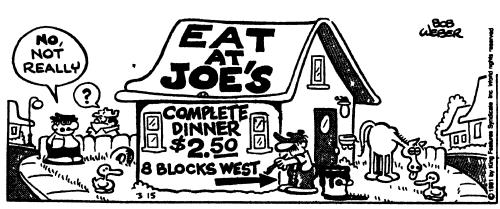






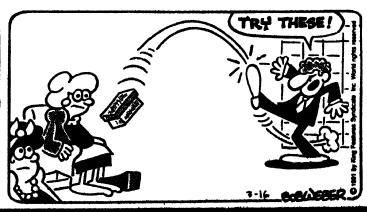
MOOSE MILLER By Bob Weber

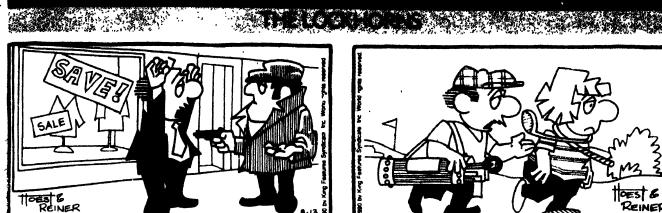












YOU'RE THREE MINUTES LATE MY WIFE JUST WENT IN THERE WITH ALL OUR MONEY,"







GARFIELD By Jim Davis









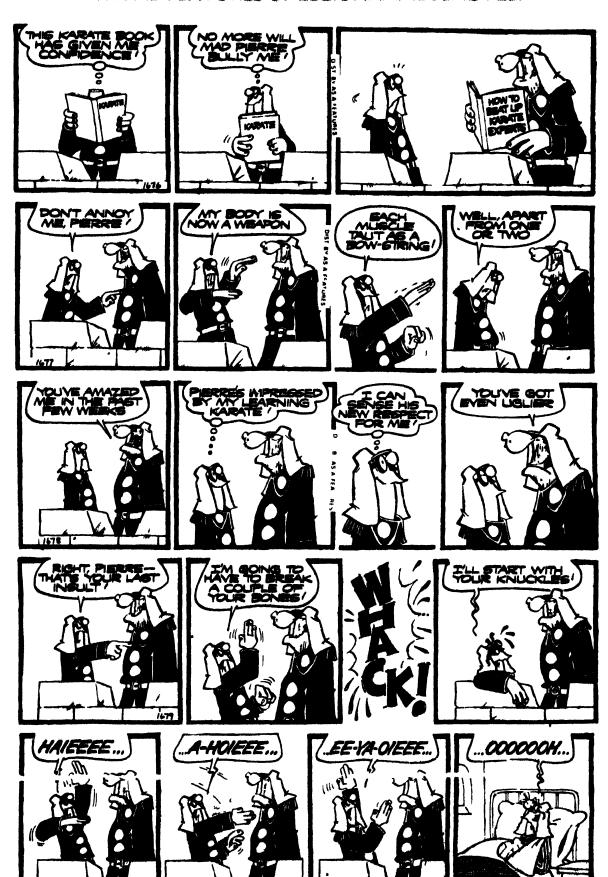




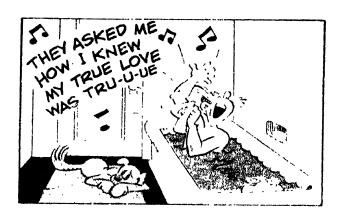




THE ADVENTURES OF LEGIONNAIRE BEAU PEEP



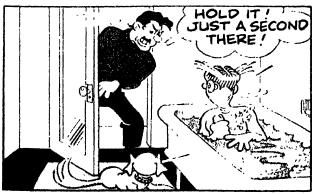














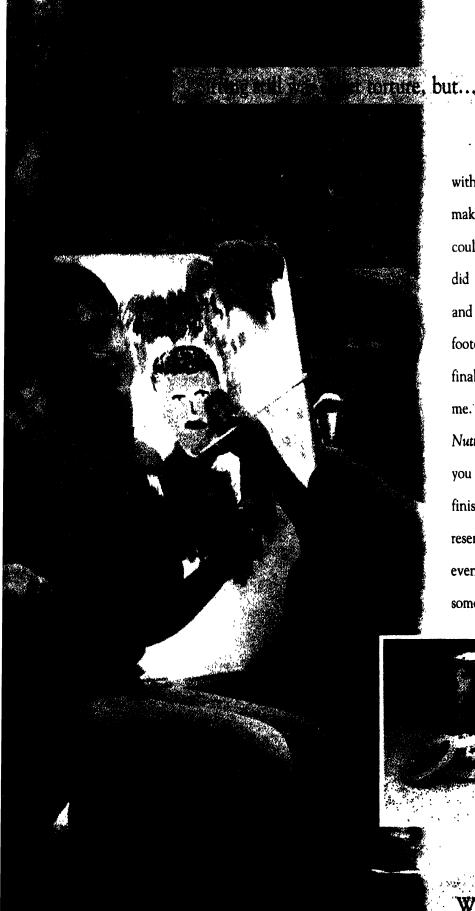


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with my little devil of a brothe. making his first masterpiece, how could I walk away? Of course, I did try to bolt a couple of times and join all the other guys playing footer. But he's a smart one. He -finally got Kwality. And that got me. There was Kesar Pista and Nutty Crunch and Zee Cone - boy, you bet I didn't stir until hy. ... finished his work of art. And if the resemblance is hard to spe even Van Gogh had to star somewhere."

When it's from the heart